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Claudio Borghi: Boca's Boss A Nova

By Daniel Fields

The post-match press conference from the match against Melbourne Victory for coach Claudio Borghi commended the facilities of Etihad stadium quoting as a "fantastic venue to play football". Why he finds that people are complaining about the pitch he says is understandable due to the other football codes that use the surface but it still comes up as a pitch similar to those in Brazil, with short, clean-cut grass. He added, "there is no reason to complain, here you have all the facilities to play and if a pitch isn't up to standard, it's the same for all 22 players on the field."

Amongst his answers from the questions asked about Melbourne Victory's vigorous play, nasty tackles and the way his players retaliated, he said he did find it concerning. It goes to show the nature of what it means to play at Boca Juniors, he reinstated. He also added, "this tour is like a rehearsal for a main theatre performance." He has confidence in his new-look young side and looks forward to returning back to Buenos Aires after the Wellington Phoenix match at Westpac stadium on Friday to re-integrate the remainder of the squad with the confirmation of new signing, Chilean World Cup international Gonzalo Fierro along with the return from fitness of Sebastián Battaglia whilst fellow World Cup representatives such as Paraguay's Claudio Morel Rodríguez, Chilean Gary Medel and of course, their star striker Martín Palermo who is negotiating his contract extension along with idol Juan Román Riquelme.

On another topic, Borghi was asked about his candidacy for the top job of Chile. He answered that his compatriot Marcelo Bielsa has done a superb job managing the national side of Chile with a World Cup where young players stepped up and this is the way to work. His chances to have coached Chile was at the time Marcelo Bielsa was being approached and as he just missed out, right now his time is with Boca Juniors he said ruling out any possibility. Later, Borghi reinstated that in football, "anything can happen and one must remain open to last-minute moves, changes and transfers."

Regarding the match, having given the chance for many players to step up and take this tour on their shoulders, gain match fitness for Boca was exciting he said. He found it rewarding and pleasing to see the response as they did not take Melbourne Victory lightly and the goal by Cañete was a superb finish he added. He looks forward to working with the team and finalising details regarding the structure of his line-up as he intends to play the up-coming Apertura season with three defenders in the back line.

An interview with Boca Juniors coach Claudio Borghi for Goal! Weekly was conducted during their stay in Melbourne.

Daniel Campos: Claudio, with all due respect and for those who don't know who you are: having played your senior career for both Boca and River, spent time with São Paulo, with AC Milan under Arrigo Sacchi, at Como too in

Italy's Serie A, then stints in Mexico before a long-term stay playing across various clubs in Chile not before experiencing successful seasons with titles won as a coach with the country's biggest club, Colo-Colo. What does it feel like to have arrived at Boca already as a champion in the Argentinean domestic Clausura league and to be brought 33,000 kilometres away for a tour?

Claudio Borghi: Well firstly it's good to be able to share some friendly words without dealing with a translator because it can be a headache after such a long flight and hence can be annoying as we arrived Tuesday night under what we find freezing temperatures. We kind of expected this only until it hit us coming out of the airport terminal. This is a country that happens to be pretty well far away from the rest of the world yet you can appreciate so many different cultures, where it seems to me that people in this country live very well you know with the latest technologies, you can tell things are accessible and things are in order. I am also enjoying this stay with my family and the anonymity, something I have already mentioned to my players - to enjoy the low-profile anonymity whilst strolling around town.

DC: What about the complicated time zone difference?

CB: That's complicated you know. On a flight one gets accommodated, offered drinks and what not, being professionals involves having the capacity to also say no at times. Boca has been to Japan and won so those who have been at this club since that time can also testify what it is like to carry the club's colours and mix in with people from such different, contrasting cultures. We are also sleeping more during daytime than at night but that doesn't matter. What I need to also make mention is that everybody so far have been nice, welcoming, approachable and have shown respect. I think a little too much respect.

DC: Melbourne Victory, what did you know first-hand and the match itself, what did you expect?

CB: Australians from what I gather are like what we are in Argentina, generations of citizens descending from immigrants. About Melbourne Victory, I know that they are the team in Melbourne that has provided a sense of identity in its football, (amongst the different footballs that are played here to which I don't understand) and that is pretty-well placed in the competition but I was informed before this tour that they were hungry, eager looking forward and excited to play Boca so this makes the two of us gearing up for up-coming seasons.

DC: And about the game itself?

CB: It's a clash of styles, a clash of expressions. Football provides you an opportunity to express your mind, your body. This is why myself and my coaching staff encourage to nurture the players' minds so to be enjoyable, relaxed and that the tempo of the game may provide such expression, it is all about the ball. We knew from reports, (because here at Boca we do our research), that Melbourne Victory boasts players who are more athletes than football players. The pressing is a key element in their game whilst our priorities in marking when without the ball are more rotational and zonal. We are going to try under my instructions to let the ball dictate play, that is the way I work and this is the way I have achieved results. In South America this is what we do but not forgetting that the marking game is important when there are counter-attacks applied that can definitely cause damage.



Boca coach Claudio Borghi shakes hands with Victory coach Ernie Merrick after the match on Friday night. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

DC: For your players, how are they dealing with a tour under their wing? Having to deal with constant managerial changes particularly this past season and having to now adapt to your work ethic?

CB: You're right about the changes and that denotes the seriousness and the demand that Boca has. The results are paramount and the expectations are high because this is a club that reached the summit of what a football club can reach. Boca won everything. There was simply nothing else that a football club could possibly win. The expectations have to do with the way our football, our game is played. You see, for some players as you say, this is their first tour abroad so I have told them to treat it as an experience as a whole because my players are young and we do not boast of a full squad. I have also stressed that this is a theatre rehearsal because the real show, the real performance is yet to come. It is a time for me to try some positions, to try some different avenues that can only now be tested because in-season during the league championship, during the Apertura, there is no time on your hands. This is a time to gain experience, to expose ourselves to Australia and take that on board for when we return to Argentina.

DC: Personally, how would evaluate your own coaching credentials, even results-wise coming today as current defending champion?

CB: Good, (smiles). Boca you know is very similar to Colo-Colo and you told me that you know me from back then when you lived in Chile and I was at the helm with Chile's most popular team. It is the team that you either love or hate, and see because the essence is similar but not the same mind you, (because Boca is an even greater club), my work does not

differ. Whether I am dealing with a big or small club, the work ethic remains the same. I did this with Argentinos Juniors for the last two seasons. The way I treat and expect my players are the same to what they should expect from me and the coaching staff. You know I am used to these things.

DC: About the tour, after you complete it by next weekend against Wellington Phoenix, do you see a possible repeat in the next coming seasons?

CB: Firstly what needs to be considered are the great distances, you see? There are those particular people involved who are interested in organising another tour, yes. See, everybody wants to play Boca - especially River Plate (laughs). If they have to arrange more "friendly" matches to beat us, they will. Now as a club we are offered tours around the world every year and this means we have to be conscious of what it means. There is an hinchada, that is more than 50% of a nation behind us, a history, a philosophy and the opportunity to showcase ourselves say, in England or in Europe, in Japan or in the USA just like here as well, why not?

There is a difference though in all of this regarding the players, as I played myself you can relate to the fact when you're a player then a coach that whenever you happen to be before or after the actual season does not really matter as long as the preparation for it is done professionally.

To just come here for one match is a bit daunting but this other game in Wellington is important to us. It would be nice to repeat it all again but staging a proper pre-season with 15-20 days to work with other clubs and play. This tour was scheduled before I arrived at the club and I accepted it excitedly as

part of a verbal agreement before I put pen to paper with the conditions and the task that lays ahead. Fulfilling promises, in this case a verbal agreement is very important to me.

DC: Going back to what I mentioned on anonymity, what does it feel like? Is it a sense of relief?

CB: For us, it is a condition that we are currently enjoying. We get mobbed back home by fans, by rival fans. We're under security check with guards at times because we are instantly recognisable and so this is what I mean by respect.

I find that with only a few days spent here in Melbourne, in Australia that people show a little too much respect. There needs to be respect but only to a certain degree.

Perhaps this explains why there are athletes instead of football players at Australian (A-League) clubs. We like to compete back home, not participate. See, there is a difference. It is great to be able to feel free here and we have got to visit some very pleasing attractions and locations like the Melbourne Aquarium for example and I notice the diversity, the protocol-like manner in which people carry themselves. This without a doubt is very different to what we have back home in our own continent. It is funny the way we have to look right as traffic directs from right-to-left if you're a pedestrian or having to look to the other side, to open a vehicle door on the left to find that the steering wheel and the driver's seat is the other way round, on the right. They're just details for us to accustom but all-in-all, a friendly and enjoyable place to be.



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goal!

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JOE TRONT DIES YOUNG

By Craig MacKenzie

FORMER Victorian state team midfielder Joe Tront died last week after a battle with cancer. He was 57 years old.

Tront played for Dundee Elmwood, St Andrews United, Dundee Osborne, Raith Rovers and Forfar Athletic in his native Scotland before arriving in Australia in the back half of the 1970s and was one of the few shining lights in Mooroolbark's sole national league foray in 1977. Tront was the club's equal leading goalscorer that year.

A highlight of his junior career was playing in Lawside Academy's famous Scottish Cup side (now the Bank of Scotland Under-16 Shield) which hoisted the trophy back in 1968.

On a trip back to Dundee in 2008, the Evening Telegraph and Post carried a story about him linking up with some of his Academy teammates for a mini reunion on the 40th anniversary of their success.

One of the great moments in Tront's representative career in Victoria came when he played for the state in front of a 28,000 crowd at Olympic Park on Sunday, 21 October 1979 against New York Cosmos.

The tourists boasted players of

the calibre of Franz Beckenbauer, Giorgio Chinaglia, Dennis Tueart, Vladislav Bogicevic and Johan Neeskens.

The Vics went down 3-2 and at game's end Tront exchanged strips with Beckenbauer. Victoria was coached by Len McKendry and the man with the whistle was current FFV Referee Manager Chris Bambridge.

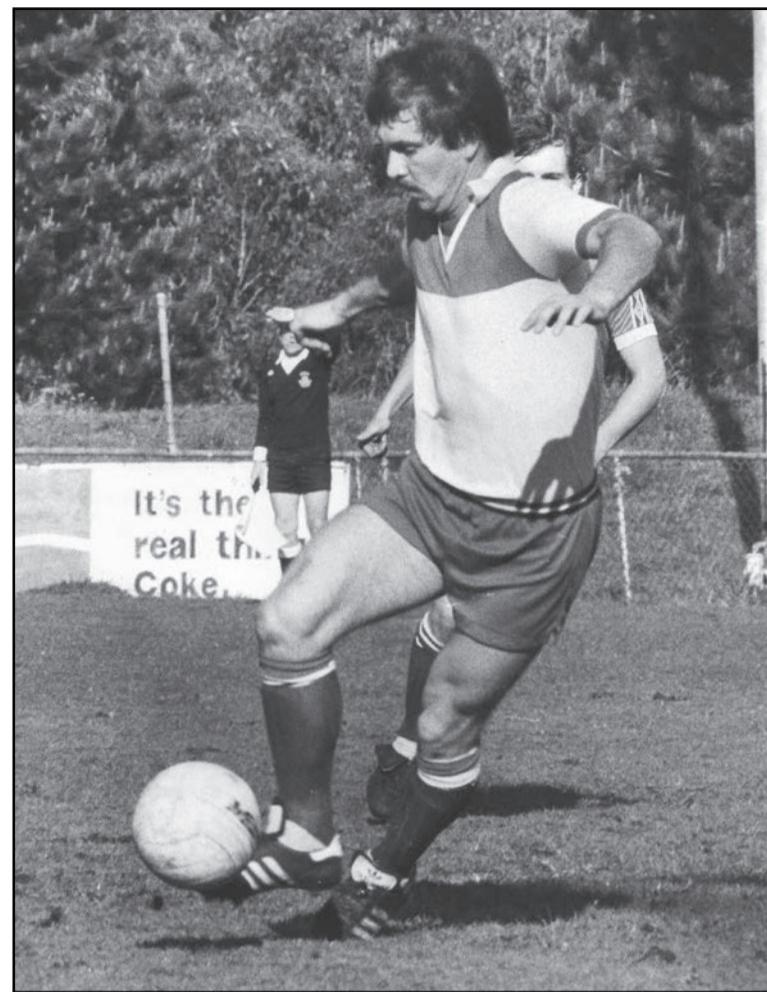
Tront's teammates that day read like a local who's who of the sport. They were Yaka Banovic, Steve Short, Jim Tansey, John Yzendoorn, Steve Kokoska, Jimmy Rooney, Carl Gilder, Joe Piciaone, Tommy Cumming, John Gardiner, Gary Cole and Jamie Paton.

Tront had stints with Croatia, Ringwood City Wilhelmina and Polonia and tasted further personal success with Mooroolbark when he won the Division Three Best and Fairest award in 1986.

His Polonia stint was short-lived but it was ironic in that he had a Polish background and could speak the language.

He had a cheeky grin, an infectious giggle and a great sense of humour. He is survived by wife Linda and daughter Helena.

Funeral arrangements were not available as we went to press.



Joe Tront doing what he did best on a football field – controlling the ball before starting another forward move.

Photo: LES SHORROCK COLLECTION.

O'Dell back in the big time

The Bentleigh Greens are looking to reignite their Alanic Victorian Premier League season, appointing Andy O'Dell as their head coach after replacing Goran Lozanovski last weekend.

Bentleigh Greens' Operations Manager, John Ioannou, said the decision was mutual, after Lozanovski initially approached the committee after Saturday's 4-0 loss to the Green Gully Cavaliers.

"Loza came to the committee on the weekend and said, 'Boys, I think it's time for a change,'" Ioannou said.

"We obviously wish Loza all the best, it was a hard decision," he said.

On Friday night, O'Dell lead the Bentleigh Greens against one of his former clubs and a recently rejuvenated Dandenong Thunder outfit at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

Whilst the Greens went down 2-0, O'Dell is thrilled to be coaching at Premier League level again, after he split with Sunshine George Cross earlier in the season.

"It's great, I'm really looking forward to it, but it's different to George Cross with the facility (Kingston

Heath Soccer Complex)," O'Dell said.

O'Dell had his first training session with his new team last Monday night, where he told the players they all had a clean slate.

"It's a chance to start fresh, I just told them we've got to get back to basics, it's got to be a massive group effort."

The Bentleigh Greens are currently sitting ninth on the Alanic Victorian Premier League table, with five wins, three draws and nine losses.



Andy O'Dell

A-league friendlies

**Armadale 1 (Goodwin 19')
Perth Glory 2 (Jelic 55', Harnwell 80')**

Perth Glory has continued its positive pre season form with a hard fought 2-1 win over Football West Premier League side Armadale FC at Alfred Skeet Reserve.

Second half goals from Branko Jelic and Jamie Harnwell sealed the victory after Jason Goodwin had given the home side the lead on 19 minutes.

Central Coast Mariners 2 (Kwasnik 59', Simon 67')

Sydney FC 2 (Brosque 1', Bridge 60')
Goals from strikers Matt Simon and Adam Kwasnik have helped the Central Coast Mariners to a come-from-behind 2-all draw against Sydney FC in tonight's historic first football match at the Sydney Showground.

The Mariners are next in action in a training match against Newcastle Jets on Thursday, 22 July at Budgewoi Soccer Club, Kick-off is at 11:00am.

Adelaide United FC 2 (van Dijk 48', Pantelis 76')

Wellington Phoenix 0
Adelaide United FC has continued its positive build up to the start of the Hyundai A-League 2010/11 Season, with a solid 2-0 victory over the

Wellington Phoenix at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Second half goals from Sergio van Dijk and Lucas Pantelis saw the Reds triumph in an entertaining encounter, their first serious hit out against Hyundai A-League opposition since the squad began pre-season.

The Reds started the match without a host of regulars including captain Travis Dodd, Eugene Galekovic, Robert Cornthwaite and Fabian Barbiero, while midfielder Paul Reid was a late withdrawal with a stomach complaint.

Assistant Coach Phil Stubbins once again took the reins in the absence of new Head Coach Rini Coolen, who was scheduled to arrive from Holland on Saturday morning to begin his tenure in Adelaide.



Adelaide United's Matthew Leckie displays his flexibility in the match against the Phoenix on Friday night. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER



Marcelo's march from Bentleigh to Boca

By Daniel Fields

The case of Australian-born or raised players deciding to play abroad and for foreign national teams is all a familiar case within our football fraternity as there are various factors behind these reasons.

There have been in particular several going all the way to Champions League success, World Cup representation but not wearing the green and gold. Some claim to have never even kicked a ball in the old NSL or our current A-League domestic competition yet possess not only an instantly recognisable Australian accent in their English but glowing memories growing up in this country during their childhood.

Meet Marcelo Peña, raised in the heartland of football in Sydney's west. Having had a few years developing his first steps into professional football with Marconi and Sydney Olympic, he soon decided his destiny laid elsewhere aside from Europe after having played for the Under 17 Joeys alongside Craig Moore so he packed his bags and moved to Santiago, Chile to live with his grandparents, as he apparently would say.

This was at least his excuse when approaching for trials with several clubs in the country's capital.

Whilst trying his luck to play in the youth teams, he finally got a crack and his reward into one of the 'big three', Universidad Católica or "la UC". The adventure began from here where he applied his midfield skills and his trade in clubs like Audax Italiano where he played alongside coach Claudio Borghi, Unión Española, Santiago Morning, Everton of Viña del Mar and giant Colo-Colo.

Goal! Weekly caught up with him during his stay in Melbourne this past week as he currently works as right hand to coach Claudio Borghi at none other than Boca Juniors.

Daniel: Marcelo, after so many years away from this country and what could be possibly over 30 years personally that we haven't met again since a child, under our parent's supervision whilst watching our fathers play back in the days of State League competition, what is it like to be back?

Marcelo: It has been funny you know because now I am a viejo, I'm old (laughs) and back then I also spent some time living here in Melbourne when playing with Bentleigh Greens in the Victorian Premier League. Not that anybody noticed back then because I have tried throughout my playing career to remain low-profile.

Daniel: Well if I start by asking you how and when did your connection with coach Claudio Borghi commence?

Marcelo: It has been nearly 14 years that we have known each other, there is a family tie as well. Starting from the time we both played with Audax Italiano in the first division (in Chile), it has become something very close that we have. As difficult as it can be having a strong friendship lies the professional aspect to it that requires a boundary in order to separate the two. This requires one to respond even more but it has been a very positive experience for us. To think that a year ago (two championship seasons ago) with Argentinos Juniors in our

first season we finished fifth and later on in this first half of 2010 we ended up as champions.

Daniel: Therefore results aside, your coaching career began by working with Claudio after retirement and remain loyal, close-knit with his working staff?

Marcelo: I have been able to measure my capacity to grow as a coach even as an assistant because at times it is the coach that only keeps the limelight when it is the coaching staff at hand doing much of the work as well. He is a coach that understands how to empathise and read the dressing room. For me this is important that I can learn as I go, that I may have space to move about and exercise my duties and this is all thanks to him, to Claudio. I feel very much appreciative with it all.

Daniel: Obviously then, not anybody gets to do an honourable victory lap around the stadium as champion in Argentina and you have done so, what is it like now to make the transition to Boca Juniors, with this new challenge ahead?

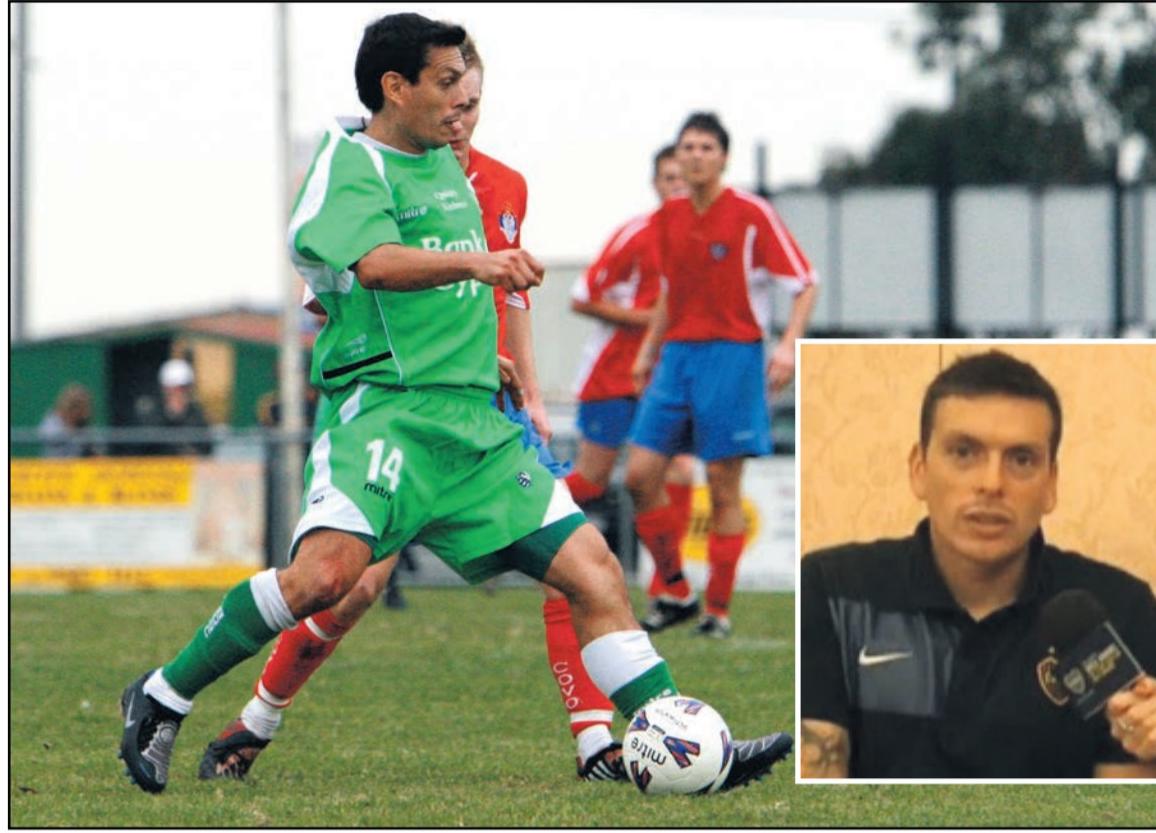
Marcelo: You have to think first up, I had particular fortune, I don't believe much in luck either but a particular way of doing things. You see, I came from Ashcroft in Sydney's suburbs, from Liverpool out in the west you know and 33,000 kilometres away I got the chance to be formed as a player with Católica, then I played in Chile's most popular team Colo-Colo. Played with Everton in Viña del Mar as well, played for the Chilean national team. The fact that I can now play a part in Argentinean football has been very difficult. You just cannot understand how difficult it is. I believe that having played and accomplished such feats has been incredible.

I do not recall anybody with similar background who has done the same as I have. Sure, everybody is unique and different. Now if you ask me had I expected this to occur, absolutely not. I did not imagine this even in my wildest dreams. This is why I prefer to remain humble and very appreciative. This is just to cap off again by mentioning how competitive, how difficult it is to play or coach in Argentina. It can nearly be impossible and coming from abroad nobody really stands a chance. From the sense as an Australian, I don't believe even the most accredited coaches or experienced players would ever understand what Argentinean football means.

Daniel: Has Claudio Borghi enabled you to fulfill this path for you and believe in your capacity, in the work at hand?

Marcelo: It's not that in any way he has made things easier for me or paved the way either. I worked hard for this. On the contrary like I said, the fact that we have a family tie these days makes even more special and challenging because there is more trust at hand. It is also not about believing, people need to understand that in South America believing or trusting, that degree of nepotism does not get you far. In football, the way South America handles it professionally all goes to capacity, to the amount of dedication, discipline and hard work you invest into the game. If you do not fulfill the requirements of the task at hand, you're simply gone. You're fired and there are others just as ready to do the job. There are in fact hundreds and thousands of other options, in players and coaches who are available and waiting.

Daniel: You're saying that it is motivating to be working where you are



Marcelo Peña in action for Bentleigh Greens back in 2008. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON
INSET: Peña in his role as Assistant Coach of Boca Juniors.

and to be conscious that competition is out there?

Marcelo: Of course, you see my friend, there is a saying, a proverb that if you pick up a stone over there (in South America), one finds thousands of football players and coaches. Coach Claudio Borghi has over five thousand genuine friends through football and played alongside another three thousand as a player. Now any one of these would have been preferred. Claudio himself had he not have been selected to play back all those years ago and made the career that he did, forming part of the 1986 World Cup winning side, there would've been somebody else just as talented. It is a question of determination, a question of having the capacity. It is also most importantly a question of whether you want to grow as a person, as a football professional as well. Nobody in football does you favours. Even in Chile, the fact that I made it was one in a thousand so just imagine how competitive it is in Argentina or Brazil.

I do not adapt to a country, not the contrary, a country does not adapt to you. You need to think that one of the most difficult circumstances are changes and this is constant and this is where I can argue that Australia needs to look beyond and elsewhere for nurturing a football psyche, to look for coaches and play from Latin America for example but there are always excuses and they are continually overlooked. Why? I don't know.

I came here to play twice back in this country, this same country I grew up in and I couldn't adapt because I was given trials and interrogated all the time, given obstacles each time I turned up. You have to consider that I played continental tournaments such as the Copa Libertadores and the Copa Mercosur. Regarding South Americans, there is too much questioning. The attitude needs to be more embracing. This lack of reception has created alienating and distancing so if you ask a South American about an offer to visit or tour Australia, the reaction is the same, it's overlooked at first. So the circle, the attitude is still one-sided and closed. This gap that I find is a bridge that needs to be opened.

Daniel: Well if you asked me about those at the helm at the FFA, the coaching staff included there has not been many significant changes, you still see many of the same names and they do not want to let go.

Marcelo: Everything that you have mentioned can pretty much conform a summary regarding this issue. It is near impossible to give you a concrete answer in these set of questions because the issue is quite more complex. It takes years to build results, in fact generations. The most common factor in Australian football is that natural inclination towards the British way of playing. For decades it has been tried and tried again. Now, if you think about it, where

has it taken? Football changes and that requires one to change as well. You still see Australian players knocking the ball up and running, chasing after it without stopping a ball first, without lifting their heads up to have a look and pass and it is still two-touch football at nearly an electric pace as if it's a hot potato. When you play, the tempo needs to be dictated by the ball and this is still evident. Change? You cannot change if it's incarnated in the sporting mentality from childhood. You just simply cannot change that.

One adapts to a country, not the contrary, a country does not adapt to you. You need to think that one of the most difficult circumstances are changes and this is constant and this is where I can argue that Australia needs to look beyond and elsewhere for nurturing a football psyche, to look for coaches and play from Latin America for example but there are always excuses and they are continually overlooked. Why? I don't know.

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Daniel: Well if you asked me about those at the helm at the FFA, the coaching staff included there has not been many significant changes, you still see many of the same names and they do not want to let go.

Marcelo: You've said it. There are coaches who remain I'm sure for years and years with little results so what's the point? I don't see any point in remaining at a club if there are no results. One would assume that no changes would be needed if there is continued success so if things are not to change now, because now is the time for a makeover as

the World Cup has finished and the focus must now in the continental tournaments, the Asian Cup?

Daniel: Yes indeed, Australia's qualified for next year's edition of the AFC Asian Cup.

Marcelo: See, this is a great opportunity to provide youngsters to step up and showcase themselves. Gain experience, confidence and try themselves out at the top level. I found that Australia in this World Cup held in South Africa needed more variation and depth in its squad. There were players omitted that were more than capable of doing the job.

However the coach's decision is final when selecting and this is why Australia needs coaches with a different outlook and perspective to things. If no changes is done soon, Australia will suffer very much because Asia is much more competitive. It will never be like in South America where you have to battle out consistently against quarter-final opposition such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay just to mention. The position of being always progressing, growing seems to me to be the same fairytale all the time so when is this day going to come? It's not about tomorrow, it's today when changes can be made. It is a very in-depth topic to discuss about.

Daniel: Now back to your role with Boca and regarding this Australasian tour, after the match over in Wellington things will begin to hot up. Tell me what will be the order of things get done?

Marcelo: We are now in a stage where the structural setup is being trialled. Claudio wants to encourage a backline of three defenders with five rotational midfielders so the main objective to have in mind is that it is not Melbourne Victory or Wellington Phoenix our opposition but rather the opposing teams we face back in Argentina that we are thinking about. It has been wonderful for me to be back here and also for the Boca players experience a different setting because it all contributes to becoming a better person, a better football player.

Daniel: Thank you very much for your words and your time.



TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

EPEE LOG

I bet a zillion carp you wouldn't know this, but The Tsigan was the Hydrogen bomb in his High School Years.

I held the Victorian High Jump record at u/16's with 1.89m.

I was voted "Best Cricketer" in 1988/89 in the S/E zone with a batting average of 88.7 and a bowling average of 16.2. I kicked 77 AFL goals for my school in the S/E zone in 6 games, playing full-back.

I was on trial with the Australian Institute of Sport with the likes of Mark Schwarzer, Mark Bosnich, Frank Talia and Zeljko Kalac before breaking my arm in a friendly and thus missing my ride.

Yet for some benign reason only known to DEO, I didn't want to pursue any of these sporting fields.

I wanted to be a musician. AND, I was damn good at it. Inspired by Beethoven, Mozart, van Halen and the Beastie Boys I thumped bass, drums and spat out on mic.

However, my old man didn't like the idea of me performing in front of 100,000 minions on that field, because as a wog, only poofs and girls did that sort of thing. Let's face it, he saw Bon Jovi on A Current Affair, and equated my hair to theirs, their drug addled ways, and put Pythagoras to shame along with any musical aspiration that I had.

It was all about Football, Football, Football.

Futbol.

Voetbal.

Futebol.

Fußball.

Fotboll.

Calcio.

Wogball.

Soccer.

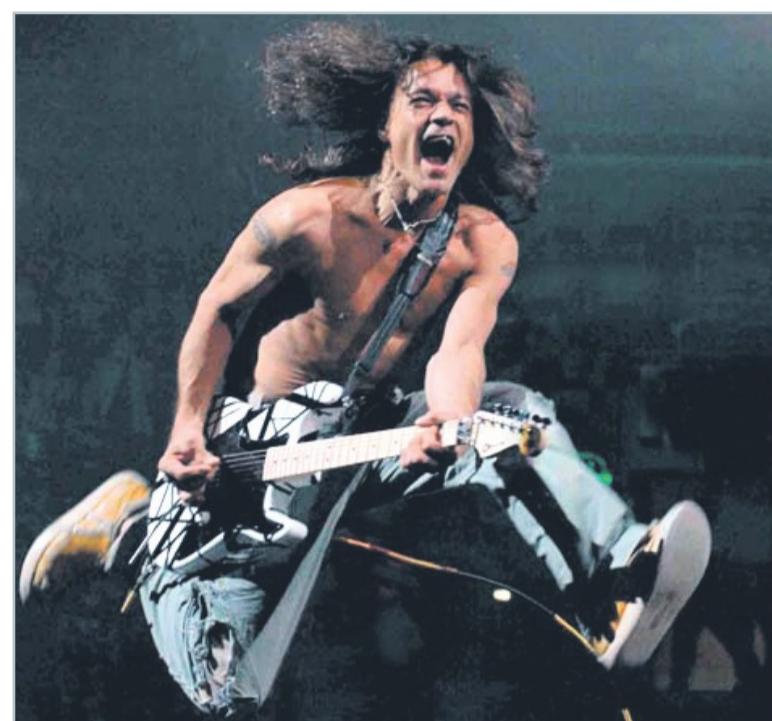
No matter what you call it, no other sport comes close to matching the worldwide passion for the beautiful game.

Soccer is the world's most popular sport. It is the No. 1 sport played in every corner of the planet. It is the global game. And the World Cup, the biggest and most-watched sports event in the world, is soccer's showcase event, drawing massive global attention.

It begs the question: why?

Why did a cumulative audience of 30 billion viewers around the world watch some part of the FIFA World Cup in South Africa from June 11 to July 11?

As trite and glib as it may sound, dasa fusbol is much more than just a sport — for hundreds of millions of people around the world, it is the ultimate cul-



tural expression.

"Football is universal language that we speak with different accents," explained Tim Vickery, a Rio-based soccer journalist.

"The biggest patriotic act that most people engage in is cheering on their team during the World Cup. It reaches people who have no interest in football otherwise. It reaches them at a profound level because it is their country and their people being represented in the eyes of the rest of the world."

Face it, even if you're deaf, blind or Australian, it's the World Game.

Religious-like following

The power of representivity is, by no means, unique to soccer.

The World Cup manages to elicit a more passionate, fervent and almost religious-like following from more fans around the planet than any other event, including the Olympics.

"Unlike the Olympics, the World Cup is the only truly, single-sport global event," said Nigel Reed, soccer commentator for CBC Sports.

"The tournament has a way of enabling citizens to puff out their chest; of giving them licence to say 'this is our team' and having some pride in their nation, and no other sporting event does that because no other sport truly embraces so many people from every corner of the globe."

There are other factors involved, as well.

There is a simplicity to soccer, and that is its greatest asset — it is more accessible than other sports to the average fan.

"The World Cup is the biggest sports event in the world because football itself is the most popular sport in the world, and it's the most popular sport in the

world because it's the simplest sport," explained Paddy Agnew, a Rome-based soccer reporter for the Irish Times.

"The rules of baseball, of American football, of rugby, of cricket, or ice hockey — they're all more complicated than football, and that has led to football spreading to more parts of the world than any sport."

Henry Winter, chief soccer correspondent for the Daily Telegraph in England agrees. If ur cold, he's happy to allow you the courtesy of calling him sunshine.

"Football is the simplest game to play. You can play the game anywhere; go anywhere around the world — there's a game going on, whether it's Sunday morning in Hyde Park with people using jackets for goal posts, or some shanty town in Africa with kids kicking a ball made out of scraps of cloth." Don't forget the crushed up can of coke, mate.

'Anyone can play it'

Carlos Bocanegra, who played in his second consecutive World Cup, believes the sport enjoys overwhelming global popularity because it is the game of the common man.

"Anyone can play it," said the American defender. "You don't have to be the biggest, you don't have to be the fastest, the tallest, or even strongest to play football. It's an Everyman's game. A lot of people can relate to it in that sense." Wish Mark Jackson played for Australia. He would've been the English equivalent of Vinnie Jones.

His teammate, midfielder Michael Bradley, who is set to compete in his first World Cup this month in South Africa, is continually blown away by how the "for that one month, every four years, the world stops when the World Cup is on.

Tsigan Rolls One Up from the Central Coast!

"The joy that people have of watching their country play at the World Cup, and the excitement and the passion that it elicits is something that no other event — be it in the field of sports, entertainment or politics — in the world can match," Bradley boldly stated.

But don't people get just as excited when the Olympics happen every four years?

"If you look at the Olympics, people go to events to watch sports they don't watch for three years," opined Bobby Lenarduzzi, who played for Canada at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

"But when you talk about the World Cup, there's a greater fascination with it because more people around the world watch soccer every day of every month of every year."

As coach of the U.S. national team, Bob Bradley has seen first-hand what the World Cup means to people and how it transcends mere sport.

"When you travel around the world, to different countries, the passion in each country for its team and what it means to all the people to see their team play at the World Cup, that's what makes the World Cup unique and so special," Bradley said.

But don't take the Americans word as gospel truth. After all, they invented baseball and basketball as a "WORLD SERIES."

Soccer transcends economic status

Former Canadian national team coach Tony Waiters expands on Bradley's view, pointing out that soccer is the great economic equalizer, used by some of the sport's all-time greats, including Pele and Diego Maradona, to escape abject poverty.

"I've been to 82 countries in the world in my travels for soccer. It's the language of the world. It removes all obstacles and boundaries," Waiters stated.

That soccer remains so popular in this day and age when the non-stop prolif-

eration of media and technology is so staggering speaks to the inherent appeal of the game.

"In today's very fragmented media society, the World Cup is one of the last massive events where you know entire nations are watching at the same time, and that's going to be the conversation around the water cooler in the morning," said Raphael Honigstein, a soccer journalist for German newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung von Sprachenzilin-* ged.

Mark Gleeson, a Cape Town-based soccer reporter for Reuters, may have the simplest, but at the same time most profound, explanation behind soccer's popularity.

"Simply put, football matters, and by extension, the World Cup matters," Gleeson stated. "It's the world game and you have this amazing confluence of the sport's best players coming together in one spot for a month. It's magic."

Apart from these plain diaristic side-lines, one must remember that in order to play, all you need is two pairs of clothing as goals and a "football". If you desire to pay \$160 for a ball and lose it its up to you. Pele played with an orange, and that gave him 3 World Cups.

ET AL

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Glasgow Rangers in Oz

With Roy Hay



Rangers return for the third time

Continuing our touring teams theme, this week it is the turn of the current Scottish champions Rangers, who will be in Sydney taking part in a four-team tournament as part of the Sydney Festival of Sport from 25th to 31st July. The other teams involved are AEK Athens, Blackburn Rovers and Sydney FC.

This will be the third time Rangers have been in Australia. The team arrived for the first time in 1975 as champions of Scotland playing two games against Australia and one each against Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. For the mighty Rangers it was a tour with ups and downs. Australia was beaten two-one in the first match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 6 June in front of 31,846. The match report by Lou Gautier said that Australia had eight chances to Rangers three, but Derek Parlance took two of them and Harry Williams blocked the third on the goal-line. Rangers' keeper, Peter McCloy, a giant known as 'the Girvan Lighthouse', pulled off a string of saves and was only beaten by a David Harding penalty late on. Rangers manager, Jock Wallace, said, 'I was not surprised with the Australians as I have heard quite a bit about them. They could do well in the Scottish first division.'

That may have been a prophecy for in the second match against Australia in Brisbane five days later, the Socceroos won by a goal to nil scored by big Peter Ollerton after only nine minutes. Coach Tony Boggi had done his homework and expected that his team would do well. Boggi also coached Victoria that year but the Vics were no match for Rangers at Olympic Park on 15 June and were hammered five-one. Boggi was scathing about the slowness of the Victorian players, saying that the Australian team had been 50 per cent faster. Laurie Schwab said Billy Vojtek was the only player to show flair and he was mystifyingly substituted after half-time to give the coach a look at Jim McRobert. Branko Buljevic scored the Vics only goal.

Rangers continued with a win over South Australia by two goals to one at Hindmarsh Stadium, but then came another upset in the west. Western Australia downed the Gers by two goals to one in the first victory for the state side against touring opposition for 37 years. Though the Sandgropers had won several games away from home against Asian opposition, the last home win had been in 1938 when India was beaten 3-1. Before that the only other win had been against China in 1927. Not surprisingly there was great rejoicing in the west when Ray Illott and George MacMillan got the goals against Rangers.

Rangers came back again in 1984 for the World Soccer Series. This time the Blues were in the unaccustomed position of being fourth in Scotland to Aberdeen, Celtic and Dundee United. Two Australian teams, A and B sides, took part in the matches and the visiting teams included Manchester United, Nottingham Forest, Juventus and Iraklis along with Rangers.

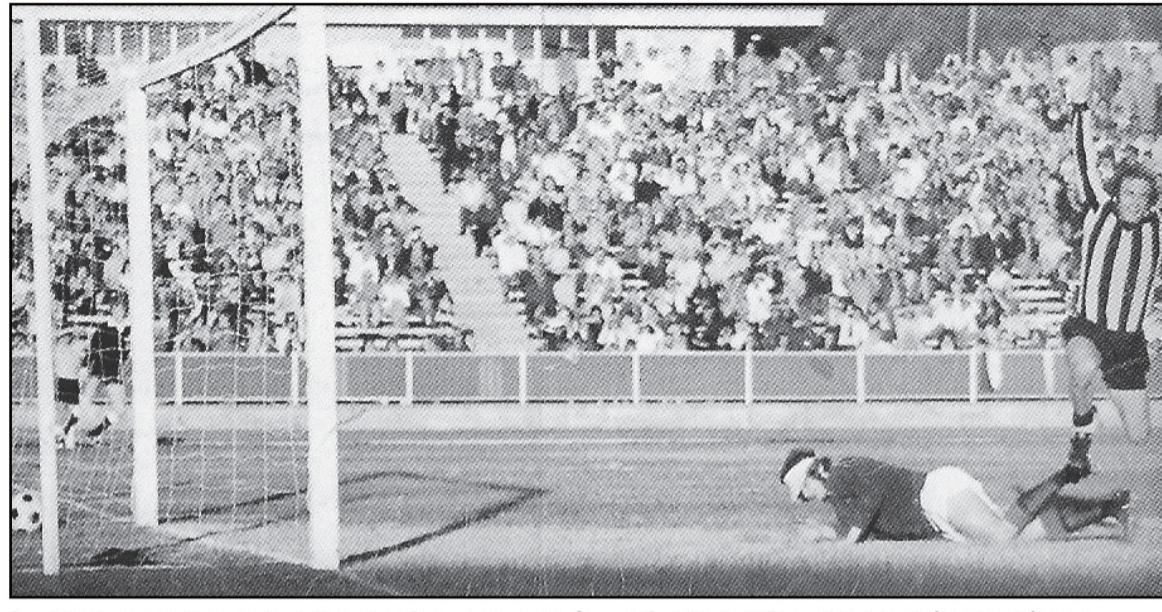
The Scots began with a scoreless draw against Australia B at the MCG on 27 May, then accounted for the B team by two-one in Brisbane four days later. Games came thick and fast and the next

was an encounter with Australia A at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 2 June with the Socceroos winning three-two. Rangers then travelled to South Australia and drew one-all with Australia B at the Hindmarsh on 5 June and on 7 June Rangers beat the B team 4-2 in Newcastle. The Rangers touring squad included Peter McCloy, Nicky Walker, Harry Burns, Dave McPherson, Ally Dawson, Craig Paterson, John McClelland, Davie Cooper, Colin McAdam, David McKinnon, Bobby Russell, Ally McCoist, Ian Redford, John MacDonald, Eric Ferguson, Sandy Clark, Ian Ferguson and Stuart Munro. The last two of these were to come to Australia as players and coaches later in their careers. The team was once again managed by Jock Wallace.

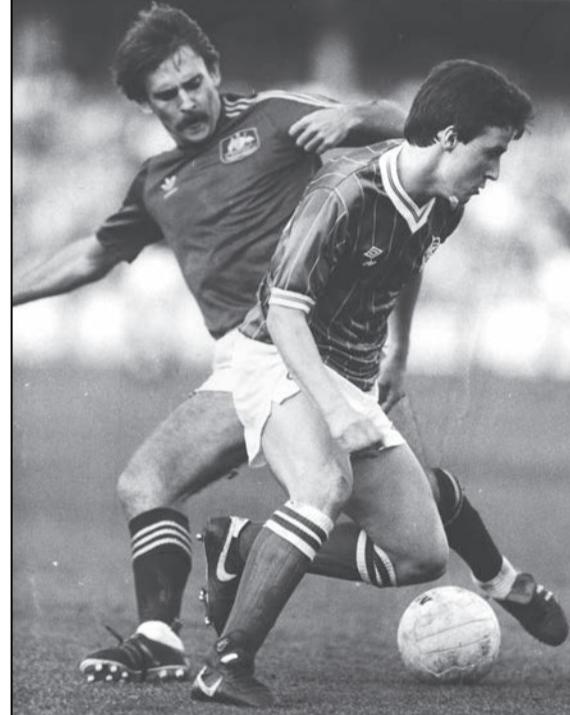
Later that year, in November, Rangers entertained Australia in Glasgow winning by two goals to one.

Over the years several Australian players have represented Rangers, starting with James Jackson way back in 1894. Jackson was born in Scotland but his family came to Australia and he went back as a player for Rangers, Newcastle United, Arsenal and later rejoined Rangers in 1906. In more recent times David Mitchell, currently coach with Perth Glory, Craig Moore, Tony Vidmar and Kevin Muscat have turned out in light blue. Many Rangers players have played in Australia either for representative sides, like Davie Cooper, a star of the 1985 Scottish team which ended Australia's dream of World Cup qualification that year, or as players for Australian clubs, including David McPherson and Derek Ferguson.

Rangers also owned National Soccer League club Northern Spirit for a brief period starting in the year 2000. Remo Nogarotto who negotiated the deal argued that this would give the club financial stability and enable it to pay the kind of wages that would enable full-time professionalism to exist in Australia. But it all turned sour, Rangers withdrew and Northern Spirit folded as the NSL ended in 2004.



Ray Illott scores for Western Australia against Rangers in 1975. Source: Ray Illott and Richard Kreider, *A Century of Soccer*.



John McDonald of Rangers (right) tries to get round John O'Shea of Australia B in 1984.
Photo: Les Shorrock. Deakin University Library.



Ally McCoist, Rangers' striker in 1984 who will return as assistant manager to Walter Smith in 2010.
Photo: Les Shorrock. Deakin University Library.



Jack Reilly tries but fails to prevent Colin Stein (right) from scoring for Rangers against Victoria at Olympic Park in 1975.
Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.



IN OFF THE POST



mailbag@goalweekly.com

Dear Sir,

I listen to many commentaries but I have to say the call by the commentator from SBS for the World Cup Final contained some incredible pieces.

There was the centered header, purchase on the ball, decent challenge rather than fair challenge, central delivery, centre instead of cross, passing radar, late flag (I suggest he takes a referee's course), attacking zone, spin on ball and body shape.

When Robben received the ball in front of him to take a shot, the commentator said he turned first.

When Sneijder was taking a free kick from 40 metres, he described how the Dutchman was a dead ball specialist when all

he was going to do was hit the ball into the penalty area while looking for Dutch players to run onto the ball.

When Capdevila fouled late in the second half, the commentator said which card when the tackle was not a serious offence and he had two defenders behind him at the time.

When Fabregas was to be a replacement, the commentator said Villa may come off but obviously it had to be a midfielder if Spain were going to press for a win so why would they take a striker off?

The list goes on but the point is the taxpayer deserves better and SBS in future should take the Martin Tyler call.

T.Gride, Footscray

BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

Well it is pre-season friendly time for the A-League. You have to wonder if the promoters are managing to make a profit, as very few tickets seem to be sold at the original, and exorbitant, prices before the discounting commences followed by the late flurry of free tickets floating around like a ticker tape parade. Heart lost 0-2 to Everton, and Victory went down 0-1 to Boca Juniors. Didn't catch the result of the senior game. Boom-tish, I'm not afraid to give one of the oldest gags in the book another outing.

Following, well during really, the World Cup the French national team has been involved in a Civil War. The battle could actually go on for a while, as they are all probably trying to surrender to each other.

Flicking through the channels on Saturday I stumbled on thirty seconds of the Table Football Championships on Eurosport. Half a minute was all I could handle, unable to cop the players dressed like they were actually competing in a highly physical pursuit with tracksuit pants and football shirts and even bike/golf-style gloves for that extra advantage. I hope they are being tested for performance enhancing drugs, as these blokes seem to take their foosball very

seriously.

Well the plan to buy Paul the Psychic Octopus and set him up near Crown Casino as a money making machine has hit a snag. Paul is extremely hot property right now, with the Spanish also trying to get him. Chairman Kaga off Iron Chef has also joined the bidding race.

Shane Smeltz lasted just five days of a two year contract with Chinese club Shandong Luneng before fleeing the country to return to the sanctuary of the Gold Coast. You can't buy that sort of commitment. Well you can, but only for a couple of days.

The Chinese are also in the running to host the 2022 World Cup, but how hard will it be to see off a bid from a country that Westerners have to get out of after only five days? The World Cup goes on for longer than that, so it will be an issue.

Everton manager David Moyes was complaining about the state of the pitches his team had come across in their first two Australian games. Was he worried players may get injured, like he reckons Timmy Cahill is just before every Socceroos international friendly? Give me a spell!

Well the VPL season must nearly be over, as the FFV have just announced a new sponsor for the competition. The big

news is that the 2010 VPL and WVPL Grand Finals will be played at AAMI Park. "The AAMI Park precinct has a long history with football. Melbourne Olympic Park held a number of games way back in the 50's, right through to the early 2000's with the National League stated FFV CEO Mark Rendell. He may not know of the Dockerty Cup, which was discontinued before he took over. It was the state's premier knockout competition, dating back to 1909. In 1927 the Final was first played at John Wren's Motordome, which was on the site of what we now call the Olympic Park precinct. Football is coming home.



As well as being popular in Spain, Paul soon became a firm fan favourite in Dutch and German taverns.



KRNCEVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krnceanic

Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krnceanic's Crunchlines.

Spain's Reign

Another World Cup has come and gone, and congratulations are the order of the day for Spain.

The pre-tournament favourites lived up to their reputation by taking out football's biggest prize, but not without a stuttering start against Switzerland in their first game. Overall, I thought it was an ordinary tournament, devoid of anything special. The final in itself was also a disappointment, and it was even more disappointing to see the Netherlands abandon their traditional football philosophies.

Like many people, I am a huge fan of Dutch football, but it wasn't the Holland we have all come to know and respect. I suppose in essence the Dutch performance in the final typified what football has now become in modern times. Too much attention is given in trying to combat the opponent with underhand tactics and over organisation, squeezing the life out of the game instead of allowing the

players to express themselves and play an open style of football. The Germans on the other hand were refreshing in their approach and won many friends along the way. There's no doubt the stakes are high at this level of the game, but I don't understand why coaches choose to adopt a bunker style of mentality when approaching a game, instead of trying to be assertive and remain true to the spirit of the game. Pim Verbeek's tactics for the Socceroos for their first game and their last was a classic example of contrast, which personified what could have been achieved if coaches showed more faith in their troops instead of fearing for the worst.

Former US President Franklin D. Roosevelt once famously said, "we have nothing to fear except fear itself". I think it's about time coaches showed some endeavour and instructed their players to take the game to the opposition rather than suffocate the game of the qualities that makes the beautiful game an ugly one. We also saw Brazil abandon the 'jogo bonito', in a move that backfired on Dunga. No doubt he's got plenty of time on his hands now to reflect on his ill

fated decisions.

All Heart

I managed to attend Melbourne Heart's friendly against Everton during the week, and I must admit I was impressed by the performance of the A-league's newest side.

It was encouraging to see the home side's attempt at maintaining patterns of play. The Heart really displayed a purpose to their movement, their passing, and off the ball running. The evidence clearly suggested that the Heart coach John van 't Schip has emphasised this to his players, and it certainly appeared as though the players had a clear idea of what was expected of them when distributing the ball.

Of course, the difference in standard between Everton's play and Heart was indicative of their respective EPL and A-League status, but the early signs were positive and over time one can only imagine they will improve and get even better.

One big difference I did notice between the two sides was their contrasting approach to doing the warm up. Everton's

warm up consisted of lots of short, sharp and quick exercises, whilst Heart's was more drawn out. I wonder if that had anything to do with Everton starting the game with a bang, whereas Heart seemed to take at least 20 minutes before it got into some sort of groove. Perhaps that's one for the sport scientists.

Pre-season friendlies

It was interesting to note the attendance figures for the Everton and Boca Juniors games over the last couple of weeks.

Whilst over 40,000 turned out in Sydney to watch Everton, there was a combined total of only 33,000 for the two games in Melbourne.

While I understand the games can provide vital preparation for the new season ahead, it appears the ventures might well have turned out to be a promoter's nightmare.

Even though there was a substantial amount of marketing and advertising evident around town in the lead up to the events, perhaps the punters we're a little bit 'soccered' out so soon after the World Cup.

Perhaps the promoters were hoping to ride the crest of the wave of the World Cup, but it appears to me that after a month's worth of getting up at ungodly hours of the day, there was just nothing left in the tank for some people. Not to mention, the miserable weather probably kept a few thousand at bay, too.



Half full stadiums must have been a cause for concern for promoters

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KAT'S CORNER

Spain's World Cup

The team that played football won at the end and thank god ! Congratulations Spain in believing in a style and not changing it regardless of the opposition.

The amazing thing for me is that footballers, no matter what position they were played, have the right techniques to pass the ball, run with ball and control the ball. Their possession statistics and accuracy was amazing.

Also, I believe Cesc Fabregas should be playing no matter what. Well, he came on as a sub and changed the game and he was the one that gave the killer pass for Iniesta's winner. You know, I could not believe some of those tackles and surely they would have been red cards if Australia was playing. Did the referee have instructions not to send anyone off in the final? Surely not!

South Africa 2010 will be remembered mostly for Spain's mastery of the possession game; the emergence of Germany's wonder kids, Mesut Ozil and Thomas Muller; some last-minute heroics from United States and New Zealand; and as far as Australia is concerned, the Socceroos' stirring victory over

Serbia. But the most significant of all was the footballing gap has closed between the super power football countries and the so called lesser football nations.

It will also be remembered for the dramas of France and England; the questionable form of Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney; and the lack of good free kicks and goals due no doubt to the Jabulani ball; some incredible refereeing howlers; the controversy with the goal line technology and let's not forget those vuvuzelas. My ears are still buzzing! I can't wait for Brazil 2014 and those samba dancers. Bring it on!

Parreira - technique always wins

The coach that has taken part in more World Cups than any other is Carlos Alberto Parreira.

Current coach of South Africa and former coach of World Cup winning Brazil. Comments about football in the 2010 World Cup: "the technical standard has been high and that is because most teams put an emphasis on quality and technique.

Unlike athletics, swimming and other sports, football is a game where skill and technique are of

special importance. Strength and speed are necessary but not fundamental. If they were, then you would have runners and powerful athletes playing the game, all players need to master technical aspects

Please read it again. This is the theory we need to apply here in Australia if we are serious about going forward.

Channel Seven snub football

How about this story that Channel Seven bought the TV rights for football in the old NSL only to "kill" football for the sake of Aussie Rules.

Wow! An email from C7 executive Steve Wise, sited in the Federal Court makes it clear the network bought the rights to football only to bury it to please the AFL.

It's not a good look for the administrators who were running the game back then. Again, the majority of those people were non football people being allowed to run business supposedly for the good of the game. But, let me tell you that the people at fault and who should also shoulder some of the blame are the people that voted them in power. FFA take note and keep your guard up!

Australian international with 25 caps, Australian Player of the Year, winner of 4 NSL championships, 3 NSL Cups, 557 first grade games, 97 goals from 1976-1996. Played for St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia, Marconi, Melita Eagles and Larissa (Greece). Rated as one of the most technically gifted players ever produced in Australia. Now involved with player development and player management. www.technikfootball.com



Can't beat the real thing: Spain's skill won the day and it was as much a victory for football purists as it was for the Spanish.

World Cup bidding

World football's governing body says the nine bid teams must write explaining why they need access to the 24 Executive Committee members, or those voters' national associations.

FIFA wants to "better monitor" contacts and protect the independence of voters who noted that "various" bidders approached it, sometimes informally, during the World Cup in South Africa.

FIFA bid rules say candidates can give voters gifts of merely symbolic

value which must not influence the bidding process, or face being investigated by the governing body's ethics committee.

Gifts of gold necklaces? Are they of symbolic value? People will do anything to win, so maybe they should extend the rule to referees also getting gifts. Makes me wonder why there is no rush to utilise technology. Perhaps some results are better than others. Food for thought.

See next week.

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THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas



The Scorer came out of his winter hibernation this week, to notch up the Wicket of Goran Lozanovski, who parted ways with Bentleigh Greens.

In comes Andy O'Dell who would be hoping to resurrect the Green's Season, and to steer them out of the Westgate Zone.

A few Coaches though were thrown a lifeline with O'Dell taking the Bentleigh gig, as they were ready to be shown the door and be replaced with O'Dell.

So as to protect the guilty, I won't name these clubs, however one of these was a VPL Club, that wear Blue and White, and it wasn't Northcote City or Oakleigh.

The other is a State League Division One Club whose Maroon colours are

not worn by any other Club, and they play out of a Venue that has plenty of Poker machines.

If I was the Coach's of these 2 Clubs, I would be sending O'Dell a crate of J Walker.

Failing that, a quick visit to www.seek.com.au may also be a good idea, as they are living on borrowed time. While you're at it Lads, swing a Bottle my way, trust me it will go to good use.

Strains of the Elvis Classic "Return to Sender" was belted out in the Chinese province of Shandong, where Kiwi International Shane Smeltz had signed a 2 year deal, only to regret this decision 5 days into his arrival there.

He duly boarded a Jet Plane, and he definitely won't be going back there again, with the Gold Coast wanting to

have a wee word in his ear, so as he can return to them for the upcoming A-League season.

Smeltz believed that his Mrs and Billy Lids would find it impossible to settle in China, hopefully for his sake, the Chinese don't place a large transfer fee on his head, so as he can resume playing for another Club.

The only place that one will see Pearl Necklaces around our Game of Soccer, is at Sportsman's Nights, as FIFA has cracked down on gifts being provided to FIFA Powerbrokers chosen to select which Country will host World Cup Finals.

Too little, Too late perhaps, a few of the Powerbrokers and their other half's have already cleaned up! Over to the House of Darebin we go where during the week, Mark an-

nounced that the VPL now has a new Major Sponsor, Alanic, and that the 2010 VPL Grand Final will be played at AAMI Stadium.

As I have never heard of Alanic before this announcement, a quick Google Search was done on said name, and unfortunately it came up about as empty as a Bar's J Walker stocks after one of my many visits there, I'm sure the House of Darebin Marketing machine will duly advise us of what this Company actually does.

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him

And remember, keep your Friends close, and your Club Powerbrokers closer!



Shane Smeltz heads back to the Gold Coast after unable to find what he wanted on the menu



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

BLUE DEJA VU? ARE CITY THE NEW CHELSEA?

By Leroy Robinson

It's a situation that's been around for the last 2-3 off seasons in the Premier League – but that doesn't mean it isn't worth talking about once again.

It's also a situation I still haven't quite gotten used to. Manchester City is the puppet master of the transfer market. Historic clubs with a tradition of success don't stand a chance of signing players if City is involved AND if the player's motivation is money.

Look at Edin Dzeko – the Bosnian striker. Here's a player who had a £30m release clause in his contract. It expired at the end of June and, because City are interested, the price is rumoured to have gone up to £40million - deterring the likes of Juventus and AC Milan.

The net result of the inflated prices they've paid for plodders like Gareth Barry and Joleon Lescott is that some people mistakenly use City as the standard bearers of the market. The saying goes that if City paid £25million for Yaya Toure then Cesc Fabregas must be worth far more, say £50million.

This mistaken belief doesn't factor in one thing: there's a difference between what a player is worth to City and what he is worth to other clubs. Thankfully, even though they've been linked with just about every player over the last few weeks, they cannot buy them all. And in any event City can only play eleven at any one time. Yet the way they're going about their strategy is eerily similar to a few other teams.

When Chelsea, Lazio, Leeds and Blackburn first became big spenders their goal was simple. To win a championship. The goal evolved over time but the short-term goal has always been domestic domination. To do this most clubs signed proven players already within their league. Manchester City coach Mark Hughes went about things more or less the same way. That was until City recruited a man who had no experience of coaching within England, but one with proven success in winning championships abroad. Does this scenario sound familiar?

Jose Mourinho joined Chelsea with not too dissimilar a résumé to Mancini. He inherited a squad bought and paid for by rich owners. A squad already capable of competing but one that needed a tweak here and there to get over the hump and win the league for the first time in zillions of years. That was Chelsea in 2004. The 2010 version could be Manchester City. The likenesses are there. No particular record of league success, and no historical appeal to players from outside the local area. Add a splash of jealousy from fans of other teams who hope the club fall flat on their rich faces, and you complete the parallels with The Blues.



Manchester City football players Gareth Barry, Steven Ireland, Roque Santa Cruz and Carlos Tevez pose with Etihad Airways staff during a Manchester City presentation at Etihad headquarters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Though Mourinho signed some excellent players in his reign at Chelsea he spent a lot of money. Players like Paulo Ferreira (£13.2m), Arjen Robben (£12m), Didier Drogba (£24m), Ricardo Carvalho (£19.85m), Michael Essien, (£24.4m) and Ashley Cole (William Gallas plus £5m) don't come cheap. Petr Cech doesn't count because he was signed and sealed before Jose agreed to join the club. It is interesting to note that his dad signings were just as plentiful and just as pricey. Mateja Kezman (£5m), Tiago (£8m), Jiri Jarosik (£4.83m), Assier Del Horno (£8m), Shaun Wright-Philips (£21m), Andrei Shevchenko (£30.8m), and Khalid Boulahrouz (£7m). The duds were all good players; they just didn't perform in a Chelsea shirt.

The same patterns are emerging at Manchester City. Mark Hughes spent a fortune on Carlos Tevez, Craig Bellamy, Roque Santa Cruz, Gareth Barry, Nigel De Jong, Vincent Kompany, Kolo Toure, Wayne Bridge, Emmanuel Adebayor et al. Then, like Claudio Ranieri at Chelsea, got sacked. Enter the other Italian in the dodgy coat and scarf. Six months into his reign and Roberto Mancini has already spent more than the annual budget of Greece. With a month to go before the start of the season, Adam Johnson (signed in January), David Silva, Yaya Toure and Jerome Boateng are in and the strongest rumours have left-back Aleksander Kolarov and striker Mario Balotelli joining them.

This season, Mancini will encounter the same problems as Mourinho; only the Italian's problems are multiplied. Here's a quote from The Star (17th July). "Of course every player wants to start every match – but it is not possible." He goes on to add. "Some players might have to change their mentality."

There's nothing wrong with Roberto emphasising his new Manchester City - all for one and one for all. But selling so many star players on a squad rotation system - when they are used to playing 30-40 games a year – will be hard. "*We want to make progress in as many competitions as possible,*" Mancini added. "*And that will mean playing a lot on Thursdays. You cannot play in the Premier League on Saturday, in Europe on Thursday before coming back on Friday to be ready in two days for a Sunday game. That is why it is important to have an experienced squad with many good players in it.*"

This, for all intents and purposes, means a two-tier Man City. A team for the league and a team for the cups. If they win the league games there will be no problem. If they lose league games, watch those knives come out quicker than Brutus. Putting the Europa Cup and League Cup on the same to-do list as the league is a big mistake. Put it this way, if they win three cup competitions but finish 5th I think it's a failed season for City. Finish in the top three and it's a success for Mancini. Yes, big clubs do dream about winning the

lot, but they prioritise, and the league comes first. Mancini is taking over a squad that still doesn't have what it takes to go all the way in the league and might struggle to finish in the UCL places. The central defence is slow and disorganised and the central midfield has plenty of industry and not enough art. But finish in the UCL places he must, as Master Yoda might say.

One of the biggest problems for Mancini comes within the next month. The Manchester City cupboard is brimming with unwanted produce. Steven Ireland - City's player of the year in 2008-2009 - is the subject of constant rumours, and given he hardly played through injury and loss of form, now seems a ripe candidate to leave. But there are other names who will be looking over their shoulders at Mancini's squad rotation - Micah Richards, Wayne Bridge, Vincent Kompany, Robinho and Jo, to name a few. The trouble is many of these players are on inflated wages and how many would be willing to move if it meant taking a pay cut? Also, City cannot hope to get anywhere near the prices they paid.

But the question was Are City the new Chelsea? Not quite. Chelsea were champions League regulars before Jose Mourinho joined, they needed the Portuguese to take them that little bit further.

Can Roberto? I'm not sure. Too many new faces, not enough team chemistry. One thing Mancini has done with City is spend money on established players

that are 25 or under. Now all they need to do is shave the squad of players like Ireland, Garrido, Benjani, Caicedo and Sylvinho. For the most part I like what they're doing. By signing younger players they're providing a firm foundation for future success and stability. The question is will Mancini be the man to deliver either?

HODGSON: SPOKESMAN, ME-DIATOR AND NEGOTIATOR...OH AND HE COACHES TOO!!

Roy Hodgson hasn't been in the Liverpool hot seat 5 minutes and he's spent £12million on former Nice striker Loic Remi. He's also gone and agreed a fee to sell Emiliano Insua to Fiorentina.

Add to that the constant questions about whether Gerrard and Torres are leaving (for the record I think they'll stay unless Liverpool gets massive offers of £50m for either) and it's been a busy time for Roy. He's answered every question in the honest and straightforward way that I, and his paymasters, expected. He's not tried to fool the fans about the dire financial situation and has made it clear he goes into the job with eyes open. It puts the job Roy has on his hands into perspective when you see Manchester City spending money like its worthless - and they finished above Liverpool! In fact I'm beginning to think that, for Roy, talking about Torres and Gerrard staying is the easy part of his job. The biggest tests are yet to come on the pitch and, make no mistake, the fans expect an improvement from Liverpool next season, and that means UCL football. I fear they'll be disappointed.

THE BISON IS BACK

The best sight of the weekend was the return of Michael Essien in a Chelsea shirt at Crystal Palace.

They may have scraped the title last season but Chelsea would have won it at a canter had The Bison been fully fit. Essien missed the World Cup, as well as most of last season, due to a knee injury. One hopes he'll now have an injury-free season. We want the best players playing, regardless of what team they play for.

Look for the big Ghanaian to make up for lost time by marauding forward and scoring goals. It will be interesting to see the trio of Jon Mikel Obi - defending the back four - and Lampard and Essien taking pot shots at goal and making forward runs. The old cliché, when a player returns from injury, is "it's like getting a new player". Chelsea will be happy to get the old one back.

Sources: www.telegraph.co.uk www.espn.com

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With Adam North in the UK

Can Mancini make all the pieces fit?

The World Cup is officially over, so now it's time to turn our attention to the start of the English Premier League season. It feels like only a few days ago that last season ended, but already pre-season is upon us, and soon another year of the best league in the world will begin.

As usual Manchester United, Chelsea and to a lesser extent Arsenal will start the season as favourites for the title, however given that they've already made some big splashes in the transfer window, there could be another team with hopes of taking the Premier League crown this term, Manchester City.

Roberto Mancini's side were strong last year, and were not too far away from finishing in a Champions League qualifying place. And they look to be even stronger this year as they have already brought in Yaya Toure, David Silva and Jerome Boateng. The question remains though, how will these new acquisitions fit into an already bulging squad, and will Manchester City actually be good enough to challenge for top honours?

The problem that City face, and it's a problem which generally dogs the richest clubs in the world (can you hear me Real Madrid), is that because they have so much more spending power than almost every other team they become almost duty bound to purchase any player that comes onto the market. Usually management consists of identifying areas in which your squad and team are weaker, and finding suitable players to fill those spaces; players which are both suited to your style of play, your formation, and your whole ethos as a club.

Take someone like Mourinho, who always wants players to work hard off the ball and to play for the team more than them-



Man City's Mancini hopes his collection of summer superstars will have the Sky Blue side of Manchester at the forefront of the EPL title race this season. Scarves optional.

selves. I simply cannot imagine Mourinho working with a player like Ronaldinho. However his convictions are sure to be tested at Madrid, who often desire the big name players no matter how well they fit into the squad there already.

And this is the problem that I feel has plagued City ever since their big money chairmen have taken over. They have seem happy to overspend for two or three players that play in similar positions, without actually being aware and purchasing cover for the areas in which they are weaker. Undoubtedly the players that they have brought in so far are good quality players, but were they really needed?

David Silva, although not present for the Spanish World Cup success, is a top player with po-

tential to get even better, and I do believe that he will flourish in the Premier League. Yet City already have Steven Ireland, Adam Johnson, Craig Bellamy and Robinho who could all play in similar positions to Silva. Then there is Yaya Toure, who will want to play in middle of the park, alongside Barry, De Jong, Kompany, Ireland, Vieira and Michael Johnson.

Mancini has already stated in the last few days that he will look to operate a rotation policy, with everyone getting a game. Maybe it's just me, but I cannot remember any club doing particularly well with a rotation policy. The last person to try it, Rafael Benitez, was actually pretty unsuccessful, as he often crashed out of cups early on, and in his whole time at Anfield he only contested for the title once. But perhaps

City simply have to rotate, as they will not be able to keep everyone happy unless they are getting game time, and even then some will be unhappy to miss even one game in the whole season.

As I have said before, not only are City buying players that for the most part they do not need, but they aren't buying players with a view to having a harmonious squad. Adebayor and Bellamy are reportedly two men who enjoy starting trouble, and it's possible that neither of these men will be in City's strongest eleven, which could easily result in dissension in the camp. And with so many midfielders on their books, surely it won't be too long for one or two to start kicking up a stink.

And the spending of City looks like it may not have stopped, as they are still heavily linked with

Villa's James Milner, and it also looks like they may bring in a striker as well. With so many attacking players there is sure to be some unrest, and what's more a massive overhaul such as this can lead to the team becoming disjointed and not playing as a collective unit.

I do have to concede though, with all that has been said, City will still be tough opposition next season, especially if they bring in another defender to cover for the ever aging Kolo Toure, and the somewhat inconsistent and injury prone Joleon Lescott. I have also never really rated Wayne Bridge, and so if City could snap up a left-back as well it would help their cause immensely. And, with their massive spending power, they will always be favourite to bring in any impact signings come next years January transfer window, and they may be the team to sign up a player who could push them along to the end of the season.

Ultimately, I do think that winning the title next season will be a step too far for City. They are, and will continue to be a serious threat to the top three, maybe even taking a top three place away from someone, but come summer next year I do think a Champions League place will be the most that City get.

That said, in the next few years I can easily see City winning the Premier League. As with Chelsea nearly half a decade ago, once you have more money than everyone else, all it takes is some shrewd transfer business, a good manager and solid support and you can win the title. In Roberto Mancini I believe that City have a man who will be able to control the different egos in the dressing room, and if he doesn't get too caught up in fantasy spending then I can see the City of Manchester Stadium rocking as they celebrate their first Premier League crown sometime soon.

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Fozz on Football - A Review

By Roger Sleeman

Before the World Cup there were a myriad of publications previewing the greatest show on earth so the timing of Craig Foster's book was impeccable.

The other publications were for the here and now and for the souvenir collectors who adorn their libraries with football memorabilia.

However, Foster for many years has lived a romance with world football and is a true believer that our game can reach the ultimate stage in the Australian sporting landscape.

Hence, his book is a compendium of the thoughts of a former Socceroo who finally had to publish his interpretation of its progress and future for the good of the game.

Part 1 of the book covers the universal following of football and the different styles which are adopted, particularly relating to the country of origin, while Part 2 is devoted to Australian football which is the motivating force behind Foster's raison d'être.

Craig Foster is a deep thinker and he makes no secret he is enamoured with technical football, rather than the rushed

version of the game. He has long been a critic of English style football where the early ball into the channels is the preferred method of attack.

Ironically, Timmy Cahill related that this was the method employed in his days at Milwall.

Whether you agree with Foster's philosophy about how football should be played and his commitment to the Barcelona school of football, one can only say that Spain's victory in South Africa certainly vindicated his views on the game.

Part 2 of the book is a fascinating analysis of the state of Australian football. Foster, like most football aficionados, believes that Frank Lowy's return to the game has been critical in its progress, particularly with our participation in Asian competition and the increased media coverage the national competition receives.

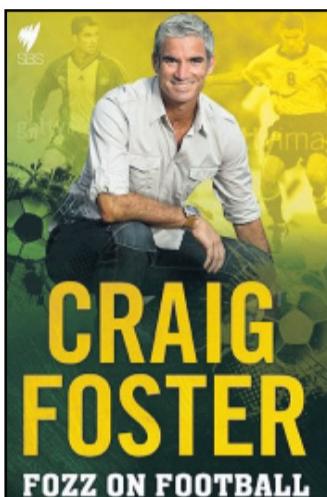
However, he does speak of the large amounts of money which have been wasted by the new regime who largely have no history or knowledge of the game.

He longs for the day when the former Socceroos take their rightful place in football to take it to unimaginable

heights.

Some people disagree with Craig Foster's views but this first effort in publishing is by far the best volume of critical and objective analysis we have ever seen in this country.

It is thought-provoking and comprehensive and everybody involved with the game should read the book because in the end it's the people's game and only the people by consensus can influence the fate of Australian football.



Cahill keeps ticking over



GW's resident paparazzi photographer Brett Robson snapped Socceroo Tim Cahill taking time out from the Everton tour during the week to unveil his Limited Edition collection of timepieces, as part of his deal as Australian Brand Ambassador for Zodiac watches.

Priced at AUD \$499, the Tim Cahill Limited Edition watch collection will be available in all Zodiac Australian stockists.

Former FFV media man and 'Soccer International' editor, Mark van Acken, was also on hand to do the honours with the mic.

Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia.

3:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial - Weekly magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.

4:00 pm FIFA World Cup Best-Of Highlights - Hosted by Paul Demsey and Thai Neave.

Monday July 19th, 2010
5:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial

Sunday July 25th, 2010
3:00 pm Football Asia - Provides



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WAG OF THE WEEK



Jana Jankulovski Age: 31

Insignificant Other: Czech international and AC Milan winger, Marek Jankulovski

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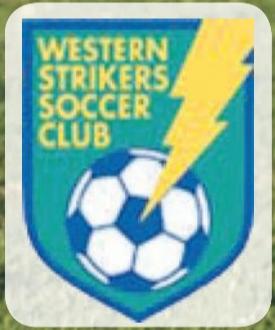
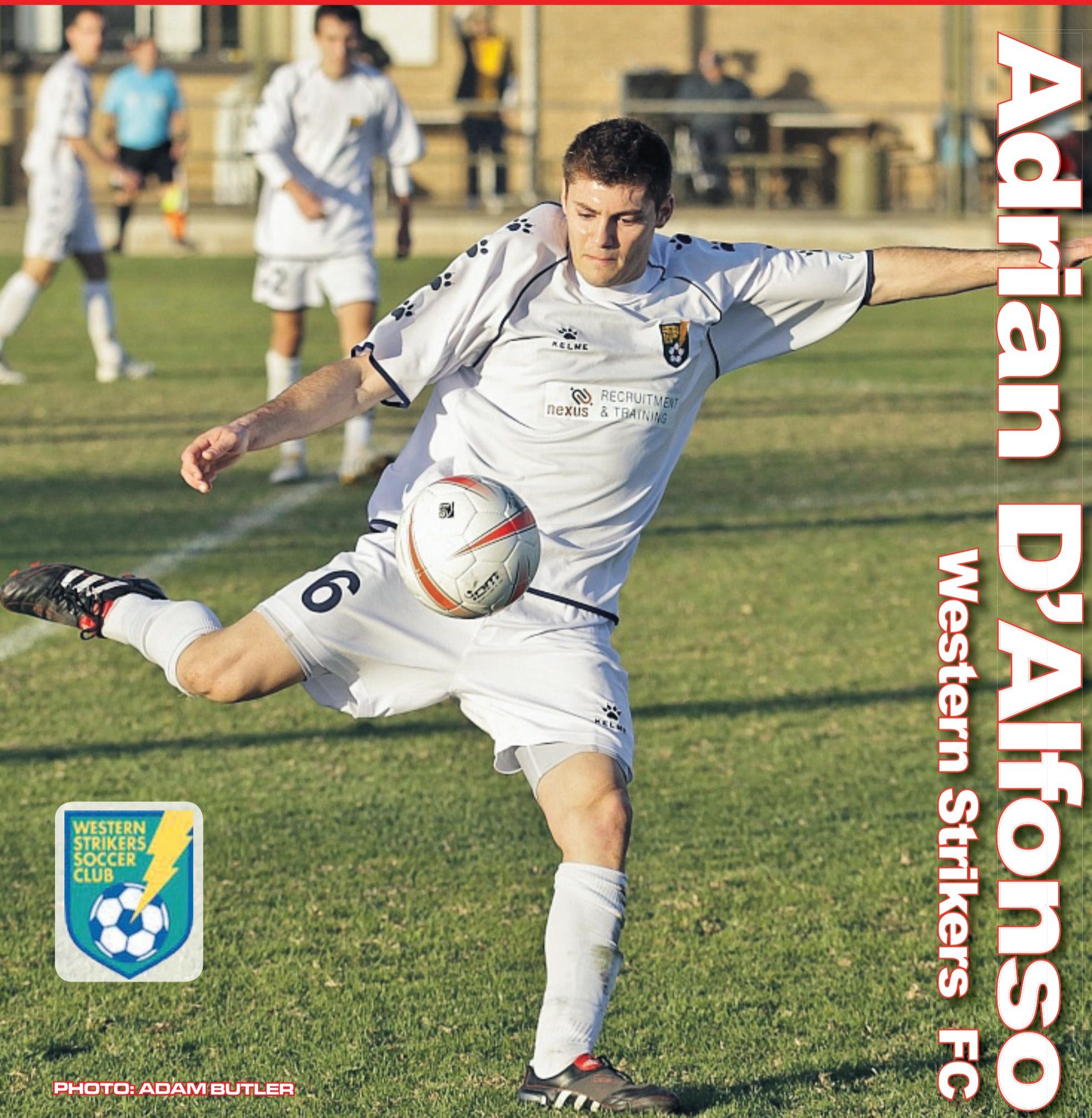


PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

FULL NAME: Adrian Paul D'Alfonso
BIRTHPLACE: Adelaide, Australia
BIRTH DATE: 8/10/1991
HEIGHT: 176cm
WEIGHT: 72kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: VY Holden commodore
NICKNAME: Dally
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None (only been at Western Strikers)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: State schoolboys
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Roberto Baggio
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Daniele De Rossi
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Adriano Pellegrino

FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Damien Mori
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Marco Bresciano
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Debut seniors game against Norlungra (2008)
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Italy vs France 2006 World Cup Final
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Header against Enfield for a 1-0 win to start the season off.
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Sammy Lennon having the ball bounce over his foot when the ball was

played back to him to concede an own goal!
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing out on Western Strikers Reserve Cup final due to being cup tied.
WORST INJURY: Dislocated shoulder
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Port Pirates
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Santos Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: Always put my right boot on before my left
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Steak with fried potatoes and carrots
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Speed
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAK-

NESSES: Attitude
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Juventus
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Moto GP
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Valentino Rossi
FAVOURITE FOODS: Kibinaya (Lebanese dish)
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Heath Ledger
HOBBIES: Collecting memorabilia
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Gold Coast
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Big Bang Theory
FAVOURITE MUSIC: R'n'B/Rap

FAVOURITE FILM: The Patriot (Mel Gibson)
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Italy World Cup top
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: N/A
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Brother Christopher
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Football Ambition: Playing in a World Cup
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: Diego Maradona
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S WORLD CUP: Netherlands

Adrian D'Alfonso

Western Strikers FC

Correia completes move to Barca

Finally Adriano Correia has completed a move from Sevilla to Barcelona, signing a four-year deal with the Catalan club after much speculation. The 25-year-old Brazilian, who plays in defense and midfield, signed the contract Saturday alongside Barcelona president Sandro Rosell. The deal has an optional one-year extension.

Barcelona said it will pay an initial 9 million euros (\$11.6 million) for the player with the fee rising to a possible 13.5 million (\$17.5 million).

In other news, whilst Claudio Borghi and his side Boca Juniors found themselves in Melbourne as part of their first leg against Melbourne Victory in their Australasian tour, Argentina's football association announced its schedule for the season-opening Apertura tournament which starts next month.

The fixture list announced Wednesday has Boca Juniors opening on August 6th at Godoy Cruz and River Plate at home to Tigre. Argentinos Juniors, which won the Clausura tournament played in the second-half of last season, will face Huracán in its first match. The biggest match of the season—the Boca Juniors vs. River Plate showdown, nicknamed “El clásico”—is scheduled for November 7th. The season ends on December 12th..



PARAGUAY

Gerardo Martino has agreed to coach Paraguay's national team through next year's Copa America, the South American continental championship. Martino, an Argentine, said Friday he would stay in the job until next year's tournament and would decide after that if he will continue to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

“I have decided to continue as coach of the Paraguay national team until next year's South American championship,” Martino said on radio Primero de Marzo. Martino guided Paraguay to the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time earlier this month.

Some reports have speculated that he could be a replacement for Diego Maradona if Maradona steps down as Argentina coach. Earlier this week the Argentine football association said it would offer Maradona a new contract to continue through 2014, and the two parties are expected to meet next week.



BRAZIL

The Brazilian Football Confederation, (CBF) is taking its time to choose a new coach, the man who will face the hard task of leading the team at home in the 2014 World Cup. After firing coach Dunga following the disappointing elimination by the Netherlands in the quarterfinals in South Africa, the Brazilian football federation is carefully considering its options before deciding who will be in charge of the five-time champions four years from now.

The federation took a chance in picking Dunga, who had no coaching experience, but this time it may adopt a different approach. Experience will likely be the main requirement, as the pressure for Brazil to succeed at home will be unprecedented.

“To lose in 2010 was justifiable, but to lose in Brazil will be like repeating 1950,” federation president Ricardo Teixeira said recently, referring to the team's 2-1 loss to Uruguay in the 1950 World Cup final in Brazil, when the country hosted the tournament for the first—and last—time.

The federation said it will make the announcement of the new coach by the end of the month, and the main names touted for the job include World Cup winner Luiz Felipe Scolari, former Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo, and three-time Brazilian league champion Muricy Ramalho. Other names reportedly on the list include former player Emerson Leao, Paulo Autuori, and less-experienced coaches such as former AC Milan coach Leonardo, Sao Paulo manager Ricardo Gomes and Corinthians commander Mano Menezes.

Scolari led Brazil to the World Cup title in 2002 and is the favorite for fans, local media and even President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who recently said the former Chelsea manager has a “huge advantage over the other candidates” because of his triumph at the World Cup in Japan and South Korea. Even some other local coaches are behind the return of Scolari.



Boca Juniors prepares to take the field against Melbourne Victory. PHOTO: SYDNEY LOW

“He is the right coach because of all he has achieved so far,” Santos’ Dorival Junior said. “He is a great person and has the kind of a profile that everyone in football likes.” But Scolari just signed a two-year contract to coach four-time Brazilian champion Palmeiras and hinted he would not be available to the national team until 2012.

He said the federation has not made him an offer so far, but he did leave open the possibility of eventually taking the job. Teixeira may not be willing to wait too long for Scolari, however, and may need to look for alternatives. He could go with established coaches Luxemburgo and Ramalho, who are highly respected by Brazilian fans and media for their success locally. Luxemburgo, currently with Brazilian club Atletico Mineiro, coached Brazil from 1998-2000. He led the team to the 1999 Copa America title, but off-field problems with the revenue service and Brazil's elimination in the 2000 Olympics eventually cost him the job. He has won five Brazilian league titles with four different teams.

Ramalho became a well-regarded name after leading Sao Paulo to three consecutive Brazilian league titles from 2006-2008. He is currently in charge of Rio de Janeiro club Fluminense. Menezes led Corinthians to the Brazilian Cup title last year, while Gomes has coaching experience abroad with Paris Saint-Germain and Monaco and led Sao Paulo to the semifinals of the Copa Libertadores this year.

“It makes me proud to have my name included in this discussion, but it’s all speculation right now,” Menezes said. Leonardo, who as a player helped Brazil win the 1994 World Cup, had only a brief coaching experience with AC Milan last season and his hiring would mean taking another chance, which Teixeira may not be willing to do.

Dunga was chosen to revamp the national team, replacing veteran Carlos Alberto Parreira following Brazil's elimination to France in the quarterfinals in Germany in 2006.

He imposed a defensive style and left out stars such as Ronaldinho, Ronaldo and Adriano, displeasing millions of Brazilian fans, but the team achieved significant results under his command and entered the World Cup as a favorite to win a sixth world title.

Despite not impressing, Brazil did well and looked good to go all the way to the final, but a disappointing second half in the quarterfinal match allowed the Dutch to rally to a 2-1 victory. Brazil will play a friendly against the United States in August in New Jersey, and could be playing five other exhibition matches before the end of the year.

With regards to Scolari on the domestic front, Palmeiras defeated Santos 2-1 in former Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari's first match in charge. Striker Ewerthon and substitute midfielder Tinga scored a goal each for Palmeiras in the Brazilian league match on Thursday at Pacaembu stadium.

Scolari agreed a two-year deal with Palmeiras just before the World Cup and was officially introduced on Thursday. He was not on the bench during the match against Santos and phoned in instructions to his assistant from the stands. Palmeiras is seventh in the 20-team Brazilian league standings, six points behind leaders Corinthians and Ceara, which played to a 0-0 draw on Wednesday.

News have been circulating that Palmeiras having had signed over the week the return of their Chilean idol Jorge Valdivia of the past two years who went away for a stint with Al-Ain in the UAE and featured for Chile in the World Cup, to not only count with his services in midfield but boast it with Brazilian-born Portuguese international Deco a lucrative contract. That is not all. Palmeiras will be sorting out sponsorship from dairy product firm Parmalat to its finances to lure back Ronaldinho home from AC Milan. The other midfield would be current Colo-Colo playmaker in Colombian Macnelly Torres.

Scolari led Palmeiras to the 1999 Copa Libertadores title and Brazil to the 2002 World Cup title and this is their first win now that their stadium will be demolished for the Italia Arena in time for the World Cup in 2014 after the farewell match Friday two weeks saw them lose to Boca Juniors prior to their tour of Australia and New Zealand 2-0.



MEXICO
Enrique Esqueda and Israel Martinez scored in a two-minute span to give Club America of Mexico City a 2-1 victory over English club Portsmouth F.C. in an exhibition soccer match Wednesday night.

Esqueda put Club America ahead 1-0 in the 14th minute. A back-heel pass from Martinez set up Esqueda, who broke in and drew Portsmouth goalie Liam O’Brien completely out of the play. Esqueda rifled a shot off his right foot from the edge of the box into the open net.

In the 16th minute Martinez volleyed Daniel Montenegro's left-wing cross inside the right post from 17 yards past a diving O’Brien to make it 2-0. Tom Kilvey of Portsmouth knocked home his own rebound in the 50th minute after Club America goalie Guillermo Ochoa made an initial stop.



CHILE
Following last week's sacking of coach Marco Antonio Figueroa at Universidad Católica with the signing of coach, former Barcelona striker Juan Antonio Pizzi, the signings of Leandro Diaz from Boca Juniors also added to the inclusion of Lucas Pratti from Gimnasia de La Plata in Argentina. The other key signing for the UC was former Boca Juniors and Villarreal defender, another Argentinean in Rodolfo Arruabarrena to the club.

Also with talks at the Católica club is the return of midfielder, Argentinean Dario Bottiglioli after a successful in 2008 before he parted to Atlas of Guadalajara in Mexico. Defender and former Chilean international David Henríquez has signed an extension with the club whilst star midfielder and captain Milovan Mirosevic has preferred to negotiate his deal with his emblematic club ahead of talks for a move to Barcelona of Guayaquil in Ecuador.

New coach Pizzi has already bet a few asados - South American style barbeques with former Boca Juniors midfielder and former Tigre coach now with Colo-Colo, Diego Cagna when the two big clubs clash during the regular

Chilean Clausura championship.



URUGUAY
Edinson Cavani is set to join Napoli when he returns to Italy from his post-World Cup break in Uruguay. Italian

media reports on Thursday said the 23-year-old Cavani has agreed to a one-year loan deal with Napoli, with the club having the option to sign him permanently for \$16 million (\$20 million) at the end of the season.

Cavani has been with Palermo since 2007 and has scored 34 goals in 109 games. Palermo president Maurizio Zamparini told Italian radio: “An accord has been reached and Napoli will improve a lot with Cavani.”

Cavani was part of the Uruguay team that finished fourth at the World Cup in South Africa. He started six of the seven matches and scored once, in the third-place playoff and received a heroes' welcome when the Uruguayan side returned to be greeted by their fans in Montevideo over the past week.



ARGENTINA
The Argentine Football Association said it will offer Maradona a new four-year contract that would keep him in charge of the national team through the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Ernesto Cherquis Bialo, a spokesman for the association, told reporters Wednesday that AFA President Julio Grondona would meet next week with Maradona to discuss the offer.

This is the strongest indication that Maradona is likely to continue as the coach. It comes two weeks after Argentina was knocked out of the World Cup in a humiliating 4-0 quarterfinals loss to Germany. Maradona has said little since then, keeping to himself in his home in suburban Buenos Aires.

Cherquis Bialo said the association did not have another coach in mind should Maradona turn down the deal. He also suggested Argentina's performance in the World Cup had been respectable, despite anything less than a third title being seen as a failure by many Argentines.

Argentina won the World Cup in 1978 and 1986, but has not won a major title since claiming the Copa America in 1993. “Fifth place is below what people here expect,” Cherquis Bialo said. “But it’s not embarrassing to an Argentine team.”

His mention of fifth place was a little presumptuous. There was no playoff among the four quarterfinalists eliminated. The losing semifinalists—Germany and Uruguay—did have a playoff game to decide third and fourth place. Public opinion is divided about the 49-year-old coach, who is a national icon as a player who led the country to the 1986 title. But he is seen by many as a poor tactician, an unqualified coach whose main asset is cheerleading.

Argentina President Cristina Fernandez has publicly supported him, and an Argentine legislator has proposed building a monument to honor him. Many of his players, including Barcelona star Lionel Messi, have said Maradona should make his own decision about staying on the job.



COLOMBIA
Television network Caracol on Friday announced its decision not to air a documentary about a Colombian soccer player murdered after accidentally scoring an own-goal in the 1994 World Cup. The announcement came the same day the slain player's family held a news conference to say it was deceived by the U.S. makers of the film “The Two Escobars”—an accusation the filmmakers denied.

The family held a news conference in Medellin to complain that brothers Jeff and Michael Zimbalist never told the family they intended to pair the story of Andres Escobar with that of slain drug lord Pablo Escobar.

The two Escobars were unrelated but both hailed from Medellin, which in the early '90s was a hub of the cocaine trade and the world's most violent city when measured by its murder rate. The slain athlete's brother Santiago Escobar told The Associated Press that the Zimbalist brothers “deceived my family and also deceived the memory of Andres Escobar.”

He read a statement saying that relatives and friends of his brother “feel assaulted in our good faith by the makers of this documentary, who sought our testimony to make a report in homage to the footballer.”

“They never told us that it would be parallel with the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar.” The Zimbalist brothers, who wrote and directed the film, told the AP by telephone from the United States that the family's statement was a misrepresentation of their behavior as filmmakers.

They said they were open with the family and friends of Andres Escobar when they told them they wanted to tell the story of the “gentleman of the soccer pitch” in a context appropriate for an international audience. Andres Escobar was outspoken in his rejection of the poisoning influence of drug money on the sport and the film sensitively reflects that, Michael Zimbalist said.

“We have a lot of respect for Andres Escobar and for his family and it's always been our intention to be as sensitive as possible,” added Jeff Zimbalist. He said he and his brother “don’t pretend to have any idea how much pain and trauma they’ve been through.” Pablo Escobar, a soccer aficionado who built playing fields in poor neighborhoods of Medellin, bought politicians while holding the Colombian state hostage as he used terror to fight extradition to the United States. He was killed by police in December 1993.

Andres Escobar, the 27-year-old national team captain, was killed the following July, just 10 days after the own-goal against the United States that eliminated Colombia from the tournament. “Through the glory and the tragedy, ‘The Two Escobars’ daringly investigates the secret marriage of crime and sport, and uncovers the surprising connections between the murders of Andres and Pablo,” says a description of the film on the website of ESPN, which broadcast it June 21 in the United States.

The Zimbalists, who grew up in Northampton, Mass. said ESPN holds international distribution rights to the film. They said they did not know why the Colombian TV network RCN had decided not to broadcast the documentary on Sunday as scheduled.

Network spokeswoman Yolima Celis would not explain the decision but said it was made Friday morning. She said she did not know if the Escobar family had called RCN to complain beforehand, adding that negotiations with representatives of the filmmakers had not concluded and that the broadcast could have been canceled “for both reasons.” “The Two Escobars” premiered earlier this year at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City.

Michael Zimbalist said he and his brother had been in touch with Andres Escobar's sister, Maria Ester, who appears in the film, in recent months over concerns the family expressed about it. “Ultimately this wasn’t a story about Andres Escobar and it wasn’t a story about Pablo Escobar,” he said. “It was the story of the Colombian people during a slice of history and it was a universal tale.”

FRANCIS FIELDS blog now on: (<http://francisfields.blogspot.com>)

Serbia

Former Red Star captain Dejan Milovanovic has returned to where it all started and boosted the Red Star squad for the new season, he arrives following two seasons to forget with French side Lens.

Milovanovic is the third player to join the club in the new season along with Dusko Totic and Ognjen Koroman. He believes Red Star will be ready for the new season and the title will be the clubs number one priority.

The Serbian Cup winners played a 2:2 friendly match against Turkish Champions Bursaspor in Austria. Red Star took the lead after only two minutes through Ognjen Koroman but the Turkish champions levelled proceedings ten minutes later and then took the lead at the start of the second half, Milos Trifunovic scored a late equaliser for the red and whites in what was their toughest friendly during the pre season.

Red Star will take on Slovakian side Slovan Bratislava in the UEFA Cup qualifiers while OFK Beograd drew at home to Belarusian side Torpedo. Spartak got

their first taste of European football in a 3:3 cracker away to Dunderlage.

Serbian Champions Partizan started their battle for a spot in the UEFA Champions League Group Stages in a 3:1 win at home to Armenian Champions Pyunik. Nemanja Tomic put the home side ahead through a 25 yard free kick but Pyunik hit back almost immediately. Partizan's Portuguese midfielder Moriera lobbed the opposing keeper to put his side 2:1 up going into the half time break and Brazilian striker Cleo rounded up the scoring in the second half as he chipped the keeper for a healthy 3:1 advantage going into the return leg. Partizan will take on either Lithuanian Champions Ekranas or Finish champions Helsinki in the next stage, if they manage to knock out Pyunik.

**Croatia**

Dinamo Zagreb got their European campaign off with a blast following a 5:1 victory against Slovenia's number one side Koper.

The home side got off to a bad start going down 1:0 but recovered superbly

finding the opposing net on five occasions and it could have been more! Mario Mandzukic scored two while Czech forward Slepicka and fellow imports Etto and Sammir found themselves on the scoresheet. This would be Mandzukic's last match as he signed a three year contract with Bundesliga side Wolfsburg costing the German club 8 million pounds.

Domestic football got under way as Dinamo Zagreb took out the Super Cup against arch rivals Hajduk thanks to a 77 minute Igor Biscan goal.

Hajduk are going into the new season with big ambitions and this was a morale blow for Stanko Poklebovic's boys. Hajduk had played a thrilling friendly during the week against German side Hamburg, having led 2:0 and 3:1, Hajduk allowed the Germans to get back into the match and level near the end.

**Bosnia**

Zeljeznica's European campaign is over after one match! The Bosnian Champions were hammered in Israel against Hapoel 5:0. It



Dinamo celebrate their Super Cup victory

only took the Israeli champions 45 minutes to end the tie. It was a disappointing result for Zeljo which had ambitions to get further in continental football.

Siroki Brijeg caused an upset having scored two away goals against Austria Vienna, the match ended 2:2 but Siroki

will have the advantage going into the second leg. Zrinjski are all but into the next stage in the Europa League qualifiers while Borac Banja Luka will be encouraged to get something out of their clash with Suisse side Luasane which holds a slender one goal advantage coming into Banja Luka.

Euro Scene with Alex Luttrell

Europe in transfer meltdown

The Barclays Premier League this week has experienced and incredible post-World Cup transfer rush with many transfers rumours centered on one of the biggest leagues in the world.

The big four, Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal are predictably the most involved in a series of rumours both inside and outside England, with up-and-coming clubs Manchester City and Tottenham getting their fair share of the action.

The most noteworthy of these transfer rumours is of course the ongoing bidding war between Barcelona and Arsenal over **Cesc Fabregas**. Arsenal has slapped a £40 million price tag on the Spanish central midfielder in Arsene Wenger's incredibly relentless attempts to keep his captain at North London.

Fabregas has expressed his desire to return to his boyhood club, but new President Sandro Rosell has said that Barcelona will not pay more than £42.7 million for the Spaniard, who set up the game-winner for Andres Iniesta in Spain's World Cup Final triumph over the Netherlands last Sunday.

During Spain's victory celebrations, Carles Puyol and Gerard Pique placed a Barcelona strip on Fabregas which added to transfer claims, but Fabregas insisted it was solely in celebration.

Latest news indicates that Wegner has most likely succeeded in keeping Fabregas at Arsenal for at least another season as Sandro Rosell has appeared to declare peace on the rumours as they slowly evaporate, due to the extreme price tag on the marksman.

Keeping at Arsenal at the moment, **William Gallas** and **Mikael Silvestre** have both left the club and are currently free agents in the vast transfer market. Gallas is already meeting with Panathinaikos Vice-President Dimitris Gondikas on Monday to negotiate a €1.7 million contract.

Last year's Champions, Chelsea are also central to a series of transfer rumours in and out of England. **Carlo Ancelotti** has precisely kept them just at that; rumours, with the Italian Manager squashing claims of interest in



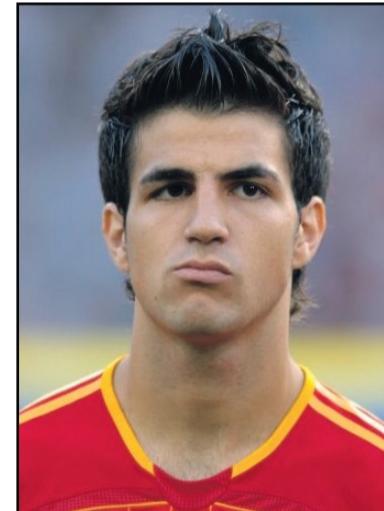
Yaya Toure makes the move from the Nou Camp to Eastlands



Joe Cole could be on his way from Chelsea to Liverpool



Mesut Ozil is generating a lot of interest after his World Cup performances



The on again/off again saga continues for Cesc Fabregas

Liverpool target man **Fernando Torres**, saying that his side does not need the Spaniard.

Ancelotti has also dismissed Real Madrid's efforts to sign **Ashley Cole** by placing a £30 million price tag on the left-back.

Roy Hodgson's Liverpool side have been rumoured to sign such players as **Ashley Young, Rafael Van der Vaart, Gilberto de Silva, Milan Jovanovic and Royston Drenthe** as early as last week when Hodgson took over.

Liverpool is now looking at the latest free agent on the market, ex-Chelsea midfielder **Joe Cole** who was somewhat hastily released by Carlo Ancelotti earlier this month. The Reds are looking to snap up the versatile 28 year-old for £15.6 million a fellow Englishman who can play alongside Steven Gerrard to feed in Fernando Torres.

However, Hodgson has also lost **Yossi Benayoun** to Chelsea and just this week lost left back **Emiliano Insua** to Serie A side Fiorentina for a £5 million fee. There is also doubt about **Javier Mascherano's** future at Liverpool, with continued interest from Barcelona for the midfielder, which will be discussed

this week.

Lastly, after a hectic week at Anfield, it is confirmed that midfielder **Lucas** wants to stay at the Reds.

Over at Eastlands, Manchester City have signed some incredible players in the off-season such as **David Silva, Yaya Toure, Jerome Boateng** and were looking at Wolfsburg striker **Edin Dzeko**, whose £50 million price tag by Manager Steven McLaren has squashed any attempts for the sky blues.

However, for their next target, City will have to compete with their city rivals, Manchester United. The player, Inter Milan 19 year-old striker **Mario Balotelli** and for what could be a potential Manchester duo bidding war. However, Inter Milan President Massimo Moratti has stemmed any extreme influx of offers by placing a £30 million tag on his youngster.

This may prove a problem for the in-debt United, but not so much City, who may also have to face Chelsea in a possible three-way bidding war for the Italian-born Ghanaian.

City have to also face the likely possibility that with the signings of midfielders **David Silva** and **Yaya Toure**

they may have to contend with players contemplating pulling up stumps at Eastlands.

One such player who may seek more regular football at Sunderland is midfielder **Steven Ireland**, with Steve Bruce looking to tighten up his midfield after **Lorik Cana** left for Galatasaray last week.

The quality of the City midfield may see Ireland leave to Sunderland, who has a £10 million price tag. He may also have to accept a pay cut, with the Black Cats unable to compete with his £80,000 a week pay at City. The sky blues are also looking at a straight swap for Aston Villa midfielder **James Milner** as Villa has also shown interest in Ireland

Brazilian striker **Luis Fabiano** has also shown interest in Manchester United, but also AC Milan as his preferred sides to move to if he leaves Sevilla. However these preferences look remote as Tottenham look to sign the striker who performed well at the World Cup for Brazil.

Spurs Manager Harry Redknapp is seeking his services to assist in their Champions League campaign and believes he will fit in to the side well. Fa-

biano originally showed no interest in White Hart Lane, saying that they were a smaller club than Sevilla, but changed his original preferences as signing for the Spurs is more likely than for United and Milan at the present time.

A final transfer rumour outside of England is that of 21 year-old German midfielder **Mesut Ozil**. Ozil, who starred in many of Germany's performances in the World Cup, scoring the winner against Ghana in the group stages to send the Germans into the Round of 16, currently plays for Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga. Bremen is preparing themselves for a series of bids for the youngster, who has insisted he will stay there next season.

However, he only has one year left on his contract and Bremen Manager Klaus Allofs believes bids from many clubs will circulate in the remaining weeks till the season starts on the 21st of August.

The former Schalke man has attracted attention from Real Madrid, Barcelona and Arsenal, but Allofs believes concrete offers will be talked about and negotiated with Ozil as they cannot afford to lose the 21 year-old.

Sweet smell of success for Toffees

By Jarrod Ellis

After passing by Brisbane on their two previous Australian visits in 1964 and 1987 Everton FC arrived in town to take on Brisbane Roar in a match that they eventually went on to win 2-1.

The visitors were without the likes of Arteta, Cahill, Heitinga, Pienaar and Fellaini but a decent crowd of 19786 turned up to see the English Premier League side take on a Brisbane outfit that has been almost wholly transformed under Ange Postecoglu.

For many Brisbane fans it was the first time they had seen almost half of the players that ran out on to the pitch in orange, and despite failing to claim the annual 'Roar Against Racism Cup' for the third straight year there were many encouraging signs to take home from the performance.

The first half provided little in the way of entertainment, but that was to be somewhat expected with Everton playing their third game in a week and Brisbane not having had a serious hit-out since the end of the A-League.

The opening stages were a balanced affair, both sides happy to stroke the ball along the ground for little result before typically hitting an optimistic long ball up front.

Brisbane was the first to test the opposition keeper, new signing Thomas Broich firing a dipping long range shot on goal that was comfortably held by Ian Turner.

The match was played in good spirits by both sides but Jack Rodwell was lucky to escape a card only moments after the Broich shot on goal as he slid in clumsily on a tackle, the referee giving a deserved free kick.

Louis Saha and Jermaine Beckford were the main causes of trouble in the Brisbane defence and Beckford almost scored under bizarre circumstances in the 14th minute. Saha played in Diniyar Bilyaletdinov on the left of the box who hoisted a cross back over his head in hope more than anything else. The ball was left looping across the face of goal, keeper Michael Theoklitos eventually forced into a save with his feet at the far post after he inexplicably let it drop to a waiting Jermaine Beckford.

Beckford then went even closer minutes later, holding off a defender he found himself one-on-one with an advancing keeper on the left of the area, but despite beating Theoklitos, the striker's shot lacked the necessary power or accuracy.

Down the other end, Roar's Brazilian winger Henrique flashed a shot wide of the post after dribbling across the edge of the area, reminding Everton there was sting in Brisbane's tail.

On the 37th minute mark, Reinaldo looked to open the scoring for Brisbane, but the big



Calm Down, Calm Down: Everton's Magaye Gueye (left) and James Vaughan show the Brisbane crowd how it's done after Gueye scored the winner. PHOTO: BRETT McDONALD

striker got his header completely wrong after being picked out by Broich on the edge of the six yard box.

That was as good as it got in the first half and the sound of the whistle from referee Peter Green came as a respite to most in attendance.

The second half was a much brighter affair right from the get go, Everton looking livelier and Brisbane seemingly having much more fluidity going forward after Postecoglu brought on Kosta Barbarouses, Matt Mundy and Mitch Nichols.

It was Everton that would strike first though, Jack Rodwell scoring from outside the area with a sublime effort that left Theoklitos stranded and the ball rippling the net in the top right corner.

Brisbane were finding spaces behind the Everton defence but it was the visitors with all the efforts on goal including a Leighton Baines shot which went high from a good

free-kick position.

Roar captain Matt McKay was the next to threaten, but the midfielder put his shot just too high and wide in the 59th minute.

Brisbane's second half play was deserving of a goal and it arrived on 66 minutes courtesy of Barbarouses. The young Kiwi beat the offside trap on the right of the area and latched onto a pass from Nichols before blasting a shot low past turner that hit the left-hand upright before nestling into the net.

Everton appeared stung by conceding and for the remainder of the match the visitors gave the Brisbane defence a torrid time. Victor Anichebe and Magaye Gueye were the main causes of distress, their running with and without the ball proving a real handful for home side.

Gueye would cap off his performance in the 83rd minute, sprinting down the left hand side on an Everton counter the young Frenchman squeezed the ball in at the far post after being

played an excellent slide pass across the face of goal from Jose Baxter.

After failing to have the pace to save the second Everton goal Luke DeVere was then almost an unlikely saviour for Brisbane. The defender tip toed his way through the Everton defence on a surprising mazy run before shooting from the edge of the area but his unfamiliarity with being so close to the opposition goal was clear when he hit a tame shot to the keepers left that was easily held.

The post-match press conference saw the managers of both sides in upbeat moods.

David Moyes was particularly impressed with both of Everton's goals, scored by Jack Rodwell and Magaye Gueye.

"It was a really good goal by Jack and we needed it at that period in the game, we got the goal and then we didn't take some opportunities and allowed them back in the game."

"It was good play and Jose Baxter and he put a good pass in for Magaye. The introduction

Match Stats

Brisbane Roar 1 (66' Barbarouses)
Everton FC 2 (48' Rodwell, 83' Gueye)
Crowd: 19,786

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theoklitos (gk), 2. Matt Smith, 3. Luke DeVere, 4. Shane Stefanutto (45' 12. Matt Mundy), 5. Ivan Franjic, 6. Eric Paartalu, 10. Henrique, 11. Reinaldo (45' 7. Kosta Barbarouses), 15. Matt McKay (c), 18. Luke Brattan (45' 17. Mitch Nichols), 22. Thomas Broich

Unused Substitutes: 20. Andrew Redmayne (gk), 21. James Meyer, 23. Milan Susak, 24. Daniel Bowles, 25. Liam McCormick, 30. Matt Acton (gk)

Yellow Cards:
Red Cards:

Everton FC: 1. Ian Turner (gk), 3. Leighton Baines, 15. Sylvain Distin, 6. Phil Jagielka, 7. Diniyar Bilyaletdinov (70' 19. Magaye Gueye), 8. Louis Saha (75' 14. James Vaughan), 18. Phil Neville (c), 21. Leon Osman, 26. Jack Rodwell (60' 28. Victor Anichebe), 23. Seamus Coleman, 16. Jermaine Beckford (75' 9. Jose Baxter)

Unused Substitutes: 2. Tony Hibbert, 11. Joao Pereira Da Silva, 22. Lukas Jutkiewicz, 25. Skodran Mustafi

Yellow Cards:
Red Cards:

Player Ratings

Brisbane Roar

Michael Theoklitos – 7 – Looks an improvement on Reddy
Matt Smith – 6 – Didn't fair much better than his defensive partner

Luke DeVere – 5 – Struggled with the pace and strength of Beckford

Shane Stefanutto – 7 – A solid performance at left back

Ivan Franjic – 6 – Better going forward than defending

Erik Paartalu – 7 – Screened the back two well.

Henrique – 7 – The only bright spot of Brisbane's first half attacking efforts

Reinaldo – 4 – Found himself completely in Distin's pocket

Matt McKay – 6 – His usual self in midfield

Luke Brattan – 6 – Put in some solid defensive work

Thomas Broich – 6 – Showed some promising signs

Subs

Kosta Barbarouses – 7 – Continued on with his preseason goal-scoring form

Matt Mundy – 6 – Did little to stand out

Mitch Nichols – 7 – Looked confident on the ball

Everton

Ian Turner – 7 – Rarely looked troubled aside from the goal

Leighton Baines – 7 – A solid performance on the left

Sylvain Distin – 8 – Dominated the Brisbane attack

Phil Jagielka – 7 – Had few difficulties

Diniyar Bilyaletdinov – 6 – Neat and tidy in possession

Louis Saha – 7 – Provided the creative influence in the absence of Arteta

Phil Neville – 6 – Passing game wasn't quite there

Leon Osman – 6 – Gave a better performance when moved centrally

Jack Rodwell – 8 – Looked a class above the rest of the midfield at times

Seamus Coleman – 7 – Made some good runs down the right

Jermaine Beckford – 7 – Decision making let him down at times

Subs

Jose Baxter – 6 – Played in an excellent pass for the goal

Magaye Gueye – 7 – Provided some decent balls from set pieces

James Vaughan – 6 – Didn't have much of an impact

Victor Anichebe – 8 – Terrified the Roar defence with his running

of Victor, Magaye, James Vaughan and Jose gave us some energy," Moyes continued.

A pleased Postecoglu said he could not fault the effort of his players and predicted a bright future for the upcoming Hyundai A-League campaign.

"We got close on the scoreboard, but we played some good football and worked very, very hard," Postecoglu said.

"I don't think there was a bad player out there tonight ... I thought the whole team was pretty solid. We said before the game we didn't want to sit back and get a result for the sake of it, we actually wanted to play football."

"We pushed Everton really hard tonight which shows to the players, if they maintain those standards in the A-League, we will do very well."



Everton's Louis Saha shows his prowess on the ball.

PHOTO: BRETT McDONALD

Are you watching Liverpool? Everton Phil Neville holds aloft the Roar Against Racism Cup. PHOTO: BRETT McDONALD

Boca assimilates Victory

By Roy Hay

Boca Juniors sent a young team to Melbourne to take on Victory last night at Etihad Stadium, but it was skilful and strong enough to see off the locals by a goal to nil.

Adrian Leijer captained Victory in the absence of Kevin Muscat.

Robbie Kruse led the attack with Marvin Angulo wide on the right and Evan Berger acting as wing-back on the left.

For Boca, Lucas Viatri and Marcelo Canete formed a dual spearhead giving the Victory defence a number of problems to solve as they broke quickly.

The visitors looked much sharper on the ball and their close control meant Victory often had to try interceptions rather than tackles to win the ball.

So Victory found it hard to get any sort of rhythm going in the first half and moves broke down against the quick Boca midfield and defence.

A Leigh Broxham free kick from wide on the left cleared the Boca defence and Angulo attacked the ball as it dropped but his cross-shot went back across the face of goal rather than into the net.

Just after the half hour Mate Dugandzic got on the end of a good passing movement but was crowded out in the act of shooting.

Those were Victory's best chances of the first half and it seemed that it would go to the break on level terms.

But in 42 minutes Leigh Broxham lost the ball deep in defence and Marcelo Canete danced through what was

left of the backline and finished with a shot past Glen Moss.

The second half was going to be disrupted by a wave of substitutions and the first saw new keeper Michael Petkovic replace Moss in the Victory goal.

Eleven minutes later Nick Ward, Matthew Foschini and Billy Celeski replaced Angulo, Surat Sukha and Dugandzic.

It was good to see Celeski back in action, and though he was understandably nervous to begin with, he soon began to show touches of the ability which excited the crowd before his injury.

Victory had a spell of excellent passing and distribution in the middle of the second half, but just lacked the decisive finish.

Grant Brebner, Tom Pondeljak and Nick Ward all worked themselves into scoring positions but failed to capitalise.

The latter stages of the game became quite heated with a number of reckless challenges on both sides and some play-acting so referee Strebrel Delovski had a struggle to keep order and yet leave eleven-a-side on the park.

Afterwards Ernie Merrick professed to be delighted with the workout against a strong opponent, and encouraged by the second half performance of the Victory players in particular.

Claudio Borghi was diplomatic about the match saying that he valued the contest with a physical English-style team.

Pointing out that a number of top

players were missing, he thought that those who were on the field did what was required of them.

Having taken Argentinos Juniors to a championship last season, after being appointed to save the club from relegation, he knows that the expectations at Boca are much higher.

Match Stats

International friendly
Melbourne Victory 0 Boca Juniors 1 (Marcelo Canete 42')
Etihad Stadium, Melbourne
Friday 16 July 2010
Referee: Strebrel Delovski
Assistant referees: Matthew Cream and Alex Glasgow
Fourth official Alex Azcurra
Crowd 13,020

Melbourne Victory line-up:
20. Glen MOSS (30. Michael PETKOVIC 45'), 3. Mate DUGANDZIC (17. Matthew FOSCHINI 56'), 5. Surat SUKHA 22. Nick WARD 56'), 6. Leigh BROXHAM, 8. Grant BREBNER, 11. Marvin ANGULO (14. Billy CELESKI 56'), 12. Rodrigo VARGAS, 15. Tom PONDELJAK (27. Jimmy JEGGO 83'), 19. Evan BERGER (28. Diego FERREIRA 73'), 21. Robbie KRUSE (25. Luke O'DEA 87'), 23. Adrian LEIJER.
Yellow cards: Robbie KRUSE 36', Adrian LEIJER 84', Grant BREBNER 86'.
Red cards: Nil

Boca Juniors line-up:
25. Christian LUCCHETTI, 2. Christian CELLAY, 4. Leandro MARIN (Carlos Nicolas COLAZO 60'), 5 Cristian ERBES (David ACHUCARRO 85'), 6. Ezequiel MUÑOZ, 7. Pablo MOUCHE (14. Sergio ARAUJO 78'), 8. Jesus MENDEZ, 9. Lucas VIATRI (16. Nicolas BLANDI 78'), 11. Marcelo CANETE (17. Matias GIMENEZ 60'), 13. Juan INSAURRALDE, 18. Luciano MONZON (Nicolas GONZALEZ 60').
Yellow cards: Cristian ERBES 36', Juan INSAURRALDE 63', Matias GIMENEZ 69'.
Red cards: Nil



Pablo Mouche embraces Marcelo Cantete (11) after he scored the winner. PHOTO: SYDNEY LOW



Boca fans claim Etihad as their own. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Jesus Mendez and Nick Ward get close. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Boca Cristian Erbes and Leigh Broxham fly high for the ball. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Toffees warm up hearts on a chilly night

By Roy Hay

Bill Shankly used to tell of a training ground exercise where he put his team out against a row of dustbins, but he had to take his lot off at half time because the dustbins were winning. It is a good job they were not playing against the dustbins as a fierce storm swept through docklands and the empty bins went skittering across the concourse. Luckily Everton and Melbourne Heart could enjoy themselves under cover.

The match began with a bang as referee Matthew Breeze awarded the visitors a penalty kick in the second minute after Rutger Worm put in a classic forward's mistimed tackle on Seamus Coleman in the box.

Louis Saha stroked the kick against the stanchion holding up the net, and though half the crowd thought it had gone in as the net rippled, it was no goal.

Josip Skoko started in midfield for the Heart and Tim Cahill came on as a second half substitute for Everton, but it was the former Socceroo who had the greater influence on their respective teams.

Skoko put on a master class with precise passes and refusal to lose the ball in tight situations.

Afterwards skipper Simon Colosimo said, 'Josip was phenomenal. He hasn't played for six weeks and apart from doing some running he hasn't trained till the last two days. He will be a huge influence on the team.'

Everton's new signing Magaye Gueye looked sharp in the early stages with a deflected shot which Clint Bolton saved and Saha also tested the keeper.

Heart threatened too and should have scored when Worm and Gerald Sibon combined and Alex Terra played the big striker in with a cute back-heal only for Sibon to slide the ball wide of Ian Turner's goal.

Everton took the lead in 35 minutes after a decisive through ball by Victor Anichebe put Coleman away and the overlapping wing-back crossed for Jack Rodwell to finish.

Skoko sent Terra through with a delicious outside of the foot pass, but Phil Jagielka spotted the danger and closed the Brazilian striker down.

The second half saw Cahill and Phil Neville join the Everton ranks while Skoko gave way to Nick Kalmar.

Everton went further ahead on the hour when Saha was allowed to swivel clear on the edge of the box and fire an unstoppable effort into the roof of Clint Bolton's net.

A wave of substitutions by both sides saw several of the Heart youngsters get a run.

The pick of the bunch were striker Eli

Babalj, who showed why the club thinks he is a real prospect with three shots on target, one of which put Turner to full stretch to deflect it for a corner.

Winger Kamal Ibrahim had a couple of good runs and Kalmar looked much more impressive when he moved to full back than he did in a more advanced role.

At the end coach John van't Schip was pleased with the run out against a strong team saying that he had learned some good things about players, some of whom had to perform in new positions.

Simon Colosimo said his renewed partnership with Michael Beauchamp worked well and comfortably and the pair look capable of holding out most A-League attacks.

David Moyes was complimentary about what he said was a new team in the difficult process of establishing itself.

He also threw in support for Australia's bid to host the World Cup in 2022 and commended his own young academy players who were coming through to first team football including Leon Osman and Jack Rodwell, who are already making their mark in the Premier League.

Match Stats

International friendly

Melbourne Heart 0

Everton 2 (Jack RODWELL 35', Louis SAHA 60')

Etihad Stadium, Melbourne

Wednesday 14 July 2010

Referee: Matthew Breeze

Assistant referees: Luke Brennan and Shaun Evans

Fourth official: Kevin Doherty

Crowd 19,261

Melbourne Heart line-up:

1. Clint BOLTON, 2. Michael MARRONE, 3. Brendan HAMILL (21. Kliment TASEVSKI 77'), 4. Simon Colosimo, 5. Michael BEAUCHAMP, 7. Rutger WORM (19. Eli BABALJ 60'), 9. Gerald SIBON (17. Jason HOFFMANN 73'), 11. Alex TERRA (14. Kamal IBRAHIM 55'), 11. Josip SKOKO (22. Nick KALMAR 45'), 23. Dean HEFFERNAN, 24. Aziz BEHICH (12. Adrian ZAHRA 68').

Yellow cards: Nil

Red cards: Nil

Everton line-up:

1. Ian TURNER, 2. Tony HIBBERT (18. Phil NEVILLE 45'), 6. Phil JAGIELKA, 7. Dimitar BILYALETDINOV (22. Lukas JUTKIEWICZ 73'), 8. Louis SAHA (16. Jermaine BECKFORD 63'), 15. Silvain DISTIN (25. Skodran MUSTAFI 85'), 19. Magaye GUEYE (17. Tim CAHILL 45'), 21. Leon OSMAN (Joao DA SILVA 63'), 23. Seamus COELMAN, 26. Jack RODWELL, 28. Victor ANICHEBE (9. Jose BAXTER 73').

Yellow cards: Nil

Red cards: Nil



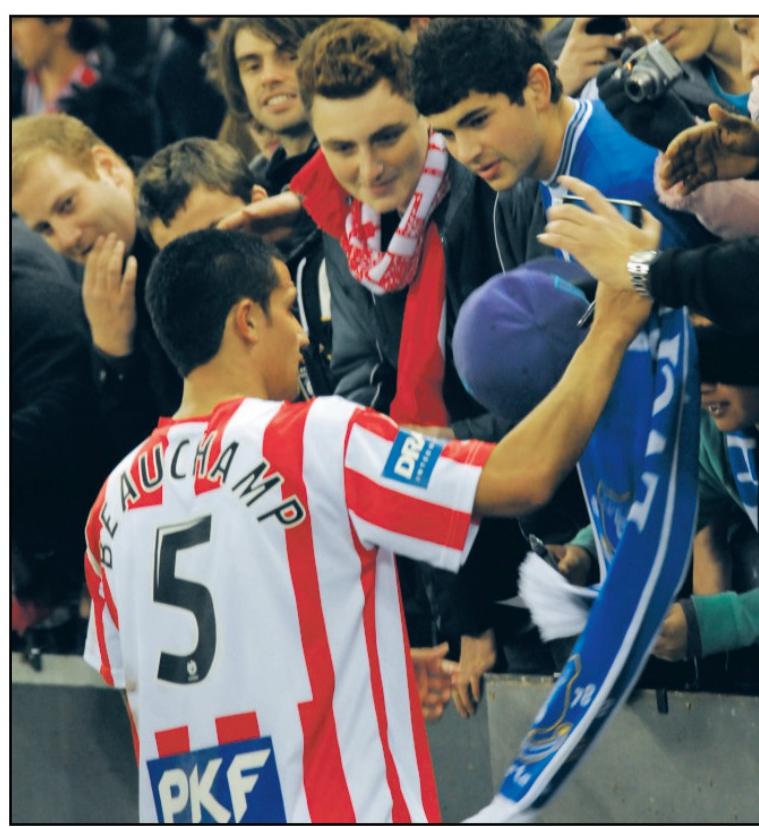
Sweeeet! Indeed it is for the touring Toffees after going 2-nil up. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Tim Cahill struts his stuff in the middle of the park. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



EPL side Everton line up in their traditional blue strip before taking on the Heart. We believe the keeper Ian Turner was still in the dressing rooms putting his shorts on when the shot was taken. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Tim Cahill signs autographs for the local punters who braved the miserable Melbourne conditions to attend the match. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Lions winning streak comes to an end at Sorrento

By Chris Correia

Stirling's five-game winning streak came to end after a 2-2 draw against Sorrento in Round 17 of the APB Premier Division at Percy Doyle Reserve on Saturday.

Mario Marcinko gave the Lions the lead on the half hour, but Adam Hayton converted a penalty to send the sides into half time 1-1.

Phil Arnold regained the lead for the visitors, before Jared Love converted another penalty to give both sides a share of the spoils.

Perth SC produced a clinical performance, lead by the deadly duo of Andreas Oliveira and Ian McMurray, brushing aside Inglewood 3-1 at 6PR Stadium.

After a long layoff with injury, McMurray returned to the side in excellent form and his partnership with Oliveira was simply too much for Inglewood, with the latter scoring two goals and setting up the other.

More importantly Perth managed to secure their first win in five games keeping them in touch of top spot and good momentum going into the closing stages of the season.

First-half goals from James Robinson and Matt Barlow led Armadale to an upset 2-0 victory over Floreat Athena at E&D Litis Stadium.

The game was an open display of attacking football, with the two sides looking evenly matched despite five places separating them on the APB State Premier League ladder prior to kick-off.

Balcatta survived a furious late Cockburn City assault to notch a dramatic 2-1 victory at Grindleford Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

The result consigns Cockburn to the bottom of the APB Premier League ladder and is now in danger of relegation with just five rounds remaining.

Balcatta appeared to have the three points in the bag holding a two goal lead into the final 10 minutes of the match.

But in the 82nd minute the match turned on its head when Cockburn midfielder Jason Dos Santos broke apart Balcatta's defence and was brought down by goalkeeper Bobson Koroma in the penalty box.

Paul Natale converted the penalty to reignite Cockburn's spark and set up a dramatic finale, where the home side held on for a vital victory.

With Vuvuzelas playing, the atmosphere in the APB State Premier League's Round 17 night game at Hyundai Stadium was world class and despite no goals scored, football was a winner in a very entertaining clash between Mandurah City and Western Knights.

Despite dominating parts of the contest, the Knights failed to capitalise on a golden chance to go back on top of the table, giving Mandurah a valuable point in their quest to make the finals.

Two goals in the final 11 minutes gave bottom-of-the-table Swan United a dramatic 3-2 victory over ECU Joondalup at Edith Cowan University.

In an eventful match, Tom Shephard headed the visitors in front on the stroke of half-time but goals from Phil O'Callaghan and Jamie Watt - the latter a penalty - looked like consigning Swans to their eighth league defeat of the season.

But a quite stunning strike from Darragh Kinnevey drew them level, before Brendan Knox - who had earlier missed from the spot - gave Jamie Goodman's side three priceless points in their quest to avoid relegation.

NEXT ROUND

State League Cup Semi Finals

Saturday 24 July

First Team

Stirling Lions vs Swan United

Macedonia Park 2:30pm

Reserves

Perth SC vs ECU Joondalup

Macedonia Park 12:15pm

18s

Perth SC vs Bunbury Forum Force

Macedonia Park 10:00am

Sunday 25 July

First Team

Floreat Athena vs Armadale

E&D Litis Stadium 2:30pm

Reserves

Sorrento vs Armadale

E&D Litis Stadium 12:15pm

18s

Sorrento vs Cockburn City

E&D Litis Stadium 10:00am

WA LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Stirling Lions	17	10	3	4	29	20	9	33
2 Western Knights	17	9	4	4	36	22	14	31
3 Perth SC	17	9	2	6	35	32	3	29
4 Floreat Athena	17	8	4	5	35	21	14	28
5 Sorrento	17	7	4	6	30	33	-3	25
6 ECU Joondalup	17	5	7	5	37	38	-1	22
7 Armadale	17	6	4	7	27	28	-1	22
8 Mandurah City	17	6	3	8	27	33	-6	21
9 Balcatta	17	6	2	9	29	36	-7	20
10 Swan United	17	4	6	7	21	27	-6	18
11 Inglewood United	17	5	3	9	22	34	-12	18
12 Cockburn City	17	4	9	6	26	30	-4	16

WA RESULTS

FOOTBALL WEST APB STATE LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
Results – Saturday, 17 July 2010

First Team

Floreat Athena 0

Armadale 2 (J Robinson 22, Barlow 42);

ECU Joondalup 2 (O'Callaghan 49, Watt 56P) Swan United 3 (Shepheard 44, Kinney 79, Knox 85);

Sorrento 2 (Hayton 41P, Love 79P)

Stirling Lions 2 (Marcinko 29, Arnold 56);

Inglewood United 1 (OG 59)

Perth SC 3 (Oliveira 14, 65, McMurray 36);

Balcatta 2 (Clisby 23, Rosindale 67)

Cockburn City 1 (Natale 82);

Mandurah City 0

Western Knights 0.

Reserves

Floreat Athena 0 **Armadale 2;** **ECU Joondalup 5** **Swan United 1;** **Sorrento 4** **Stirling Lions 3;** **Inglewood United 2** **Perth SC 3;** **Balcatta 1** **Cockburn City 1;** **Mandurah City 1** **Western Knights 4.**

Under 18's

Floreat Athena 2 **Armadale 1;** **ECU Joondalup 3** **Swan United 0;** **Sorrento 2** **Stirling Lions 2;** **Inglewood United 1** **Perth SC 5;** **Balcatta 1** **Cockburn City 5;** **Mandurah City 0** **Western Knights 0.**

DIVISION ONE

Results – Saturday, 17 July 2010

First Team

Bayswater City 1 (Karpeh 43) Canning City 1 (Rickman 16); Fremantle Spirit 2 (Canzurlo 60, 72) Dianella White Eagles 2 (Jelen 50, 87); Morley-Windmills 3 (Larkin 34, Griffiths 68P, Van der Ross 69) Ashfield 2 (Harmon 24, 51); Forrestfield United 2 (Burns 6, 24) Queens Park 1 (Conte 14); Bunbury Forum Force 0 Wanneroo City 1 (Cairney 59); Rockingham City 0 Gosnells City 4 (Twyman 39, Kennedy 66, Holland 84, 92).

Reserves

Bayswater City 0 **Canning City 1;** **Fremantle Spirit 1** **Dianella White Eagles 2;** **Morley-Windmills 4** **Ashfield 0;** **Forrestfield United 0** **Queens Park 1;** **Bunbury Forum Force 3** **Wanneroo City 2;** **Rockingham City 0** **Gosnells City 4.**

Under 18's

Bayswater City 7 **Canning City 0;** **Fremantle Spirit 4** **Dianella White Eagles 0;** **Morley-Windmills 3** **Ashfield 0;** **Forrestfield United 6** **Queens Park 1;** **Bunbury Forum Force 6** **Wanneroo City 0;** **Rockingham City 3** **Gosnells City 1.**



Lions striker Mario Marcinko and Sorrento midfielder Glen Thomas in action.. PHOTO: PETER SIMCOX

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BONNYRIGG CREEP TOWARDS PREMIERSHIP

By Mike Salter

The Bonnyrigg White Eagles had to put the Premiership champagne on ice for one more week after being held to a 1-1 draw by Rockdale City on Saturday evening. Brad Boardman put the competition leaders ahead just after the hour, but an equaliser deep into injury time from Adem Kir rescued a point for Rockdale, who have exceeded all expectations in their first season in the NSW Premier League.

Elsewhere on Saturday, Marconi continued their late-season slump with a 2-0 loss at home to Manly United, while Blacktown City gained a crucial away win over a depleted Sutherland Sharks. Details of that one can be found below.

In Sunday's games, finals-chasing APIA gained an important 2-1 win away to the West Sydney Berries, who have not delivered on the promise they showed earlier in the season. The other Greek-backed club in the competition fared even worse; troubled Sydney Olympic went down 4-0 in Wollongong to the South Coast Wolves.

Sutherland Sharks 1-3

Blacktown City

An entertaining encounter at Seymour Shaw saw Aytek Genc's Blacktown side register a crucial win in the race for finals places.

Sutherland were without several first-team players through suspension, while Scottish striker Stephen McConologue had returned home due to an illness in the family. Blacktown, for their part, lost key defender Zac Cairncross after only seven minutes; the former Sydney FC youngster sustained an ankle ligament injury, which is likely to sideline him for the finals.

Although Blacktown dominated the early exchanges, they failed to create any clear openings, and it was Sutherland who went closest to scoring in the opening half-hour. Jim Bakis's free kick from the right was heading for the top corner when Matt Nemes saved acrobatically, and from the subsequent corner Ben Vidaic found room for a shot, but Nemes closed the tall striker down quickly, and Vidaic could only punt the ball wide of goal.



Champagne on ice! Bonnyrigg mob Bradley Boardman after scoring against Rockdale City Suns.

PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/FNSW

Blacktown began to threaten the Sutherland goal more seriously. Nathan Denham had to punch a corner from Lachlan Cahill off the line on 32 minutes, and soon afterwards a well-placed header from Mitchell Long was nodded off the line by young Misha Hardwick. Sutherland soon struck back at the other end, a fine move involving Bakis, Blake Powell and Adam Faour ending when Nemes smartly gathered the latter's cross.

Sutherland were forced to clear off the line for the third time in eight minutes when Tolgay Ozbey slid a beautiful pass through to Luke Roodenburg on the Blacktown right; Roodenburg rounded Denham but could not get enough power on his angled shot, which was thumped clear by Paul Kohler.

An even better chance arrived for the visitors on 42 minutes, when Ozbey, who tormented the Sutherland defence throughout, charged through the middle and laid the ball aside for Ante Deur on the left, whose rasping shot was saved brilliantly by Denham. The ball broke to Joel Chianese, but Denham made good ground to his left to smother the follow-up shot from the Blacktown right-winger.

Sutherland had survived plenty of scares in the first half, and they would have been bitterly disappointed when they conceded a needless goal just seconds after the restart. Denham's careless pass to Kohler was pounced upon by a grateful Deur, who squared the ball neatly to Ozbey. Blacktown's leading marksman calmly made himself room for a shot and rammed the ball home with his right foot.

Two half-chances fell to Sutherland in the succeeding minutes as they swarmed forward, Hussein Jasli and Hardwick both failing to make the most of sudden opportunities. On 56 minutes the visitors might have gone further in front when Ozbey again broke clear on the left and forced Denham into a good save from a tight angle. From the rebound, Roodenburg's shot was blocked by the ample frame of Neil Jablonski.

Quite unexpectedly, the hosts drew level on 64 minutes. Another excellent free kick from Bakis sailed dangerously into the Sutherland area, and Travis Major fouled Vidaic as he went up for the ball. Bakis himself stepped up to take the spot-kick, which he buried low into the left-hand corner of the goal. 3-1 it finished, a vital win for Blacktown and a heavy blow for Sutherland, who are now faced with a real struggle to make the finals for a third successive year.

Only seven minutes later, however, Blacktown were back in front thanks to another penalty. Following a half-chance for Long, Ozbey yet again surged into the box and was tripped by James Lawrence, who had arrived as a substitute for the injured Faour earlier in the half. Ozbey confidently slammed his penalty past Denham, and Sutherland were chasing the game once more.

Mike Katz, a season-long absentee for Sutherland, made a welcome return before his home fans after 82 minutes, replacing Jasli, but he was unable to make an impact. Instead, it was Blacktown who made sure of the points with a delightful team goal on 86 minutes. The lively Bernie Ibini, who had replaced Deur only a few minutes earlier, released Ozbey in the middle, and Blacktown's man-of-the-match touched the ball off to Chianese, who had made a canny diagonal run from the right. Denham did what he could, but Chianese rounded the Sutherland keeper easily and slotted his angled shot deftly into the goal. 3-1 it finished, a vital win for Blacktown and a heavy blow for Sutherland, who are now faced with a real struggle to make the finals for a third successive year.

NSW LADDER

	P	W	L	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	20	12	6	42
Blacktown City FC	20	11	4	37
Sydney United	20	9	6	33
Marconi Stallions	20	10	3	33
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	20	10	3	28
Sutherland Sharks	20	8	4	28
Rockdale City Suns	20	5	12	27
Bankstown City	20	7	5	26
Manly United FC	20	6	4	22
South Coast Wolves	20	5	4	19
Sydney Olympic	20	5	3	18
West Sydney Berries	20	2	6	12

NSW RESULTS

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 20:

FIRST GRADE:
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1
(Bradley Boardman 65m),
Rockdale City Suns 1 (Adem Kir 95m),

Sutherland Sharks 1 (Jim Bakis 64m)
Blacktown City FC 3 (Tolgay Ozbey 46/72m
Joel Chianese 84m),

Marconi Stallions 0 Manly United FC 2 (Robert Cattanach 71m David Dodd 88m),

West Sydney Berries 1 (Glen Trifiro 62m)
APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Anthony Hartshorn 40m Franco Parisi 80m),
South Coast Wolves 4 (Tynan Diaz 20m
Shaun Van Rooyen 59m Samet Kaynak 70m
Mark Picciolini 85m)
Sydney Olympic 0.

GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Rockdale City Suns 0, Sutherland Sharks 0 Blacktown City FC 2, Marconi Stallions 1 Manly United FC 0, West Sydney Berries 1 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1, South Coast Wolves 1 Sydney Olympic 1.

GRADE 18: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Rockdale City Suns 0, Sutherland Sharks 0 Blacktown City FC 3, Marconi Stallions 0 Manly United FC 0, South Coast Wolves 1 Sydney Olympic 1.

RESCHEDULED GAME: ROUND 15: GRADE 20: Manly United FC 2 Rockdale City Suns 0.

SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 18: FIRST GRADE: Dulwich Hill 1 (N Philippou 77m) Macarthur Rams 3 (S Messam 1/37/76m), Granville Rage 1 (F Graham 70m) FC Bossy Liverpool 1 (D Wilson 30m), Sydney University 3 (C Hayton 1m D Dowling 43m C Soares 88m) Spirit FC 0. **GRADE 20:** Dulwich Hill 1 Macarthur Rams 2, Granville Rage 4 FC Bossy Liverpool 1, Sydney University 0 Spirit FC 3. **RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 10: FIRST GRADE:** St George FC 2 (D Cutura 7/55m) FC Bossy Liverpool 0. **GRADE 20:** St George FC 4 FC Bossy Liverpool 1.

DIVISION ONE: ROUND 18: FIRST GRADE: Balmain SC 1 (C Paradis 75m) Hills Brumbies 1 (T Pannowitz 65m pen), Mounties Wanderers 2 (S Lloyd 16m P Crisp 67m) Schofield Scorpions 2 (B Lam 6m T Aitken 58m). **GRADE 20:** Balmain SC 1 Hills Brumbies 1, Mounties Wanderers 2 Schofield Scorpions 2.

DIVISION TWO: ROUND 17: FIRST GRADE: Bathurst '75 1 (J Christie 44m) Springwood 4 (B Campbell 32/81m P Henderson 61m M Schensival 69m). **RESERVE GRADE:** Bathurst '75 0 Springwood 0.

ARRIVE ALIVE WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: RESCHEDULED GAME: ROUND 11: GRADE 12: Central Coast Lightning 0 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0. **GRADE 14:** Central Coast Lightning 1 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0. **GRADE 16:** Central Coast Lightning 1 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0.

NEXT ROUND

Round 21

- 3pm Sun 25/Jul Syd Olympic v B'rigg White Eagles
Belmore Sports Ground
- 3pm Sun 25/Jul Rockdale City Suns v Marconi Stallions
Bicentennial Park Stk
- 3pm Sun 25/Jul Manly Utd v S'land Sharks
Cromer Park
- 3pm Sun 25/Jul APIA L'hardt Tigers v Bankstown City
Leichhardt Oval
- 3pm Sun 25/Jul Blacktown City v Syd Utd Lily Homes
- 3pm Sun 25/Jul Sth Coast Wolves v West Syd Berries
Win Stadium

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MELBOURNE HEART FC



PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Melbourne Heart FC lines up prior to its friendly match against the touring English Premier League side, Everton FC.

Back row: Clint Bolton, Simon Colosimo, Michael Beauchamp, Josip Skoko, Brendan Hamill, Gerald Sibon.

Front row: Aziz Behich, Rutger Worm, Dean Heffernan, Michael Marrone, Alex Terra.



Race for second down to the wire

By Nektar Vavoulas

The Tilford Zebras and Glenorchy Knights are locked in a tense battle for second spot after this weekend's matches in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League.

The Zebras had a difficult Friday evening clash against Clarence United who themselves were looking to cement fourth spot and entry to the Statewide Final series for which they won last year. United broke the deadlock just before the interval when striker Benjamin Hamlett struck a fine shot from distance into the bottom left of the goal. Zebras captain Andrew Telega equalised shortly after and when Jon Ladic's pinpoint cross found Ricky Self, the skilful winger put Zebras ahead 2-1. With just minutes to play, a speculative long range strike from Clarence midfielder Luke Huigslaat caught Zebras keeper Jason Voss napping to give his side a share of the spoils.

The out of form Glenorchy Knights travelled to Lightwood Park for their tricky encounter against fifth placed Kingborough Lions knowing they needed three points to draw level with the second placed Zebras. The Lions also knew a victory would give them a fighting chance for fourth spot with only three rounds remaining.

In a highly entertaining game, the Knights took a 3-2 lead into the interval, however their enigmatic striker Corey Smith collected two yellow cards and was sent from the field for the third time this season. Knights held on in the second half and managed to increase the score to 4-2. Scorers for the Knights were Smith, Josh Fielding and William Roberts with a brace. For the Lions, Ryan Bevan and Joel Schuth were their marksmen.

Interestingly enough the top 4 stands now exactly how it finished last season.

In the battle to avoid relegation Taroona missed a great opportunity to open a four point gap over Olympia Warriors after being beaten 3-1 to New Town Eagles at their home ground of Kelvedon Park. Eagles were comfortable all the way with Simon Strang and Mark Page finding the back of the net and the remaining goal was an own goal. Taroona's late consolation came through Ruaidhri Carey.

The Warriors face first placed South Hobart in the last match of the round.

In the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, the top two sides were again victorious in their pursuit for the Premiership.

Devonport City had a difficult trip to Prospect Knights who were in sixth position on the ladder. It took just the

one goal in the second half to settle the game for the Strikers, running out 1-0 victors.

Northern Rangers hosted fifth placed Ulverstone in a late afternoon clash and came out comfortable 4-1 winners to keep their slender one point advantage at the top over Devonport.

Burnie United look to have cemented their spot in the Statewide Final series jumping into third spot over Riverside Olympic after crushing them 5-1 away at Windsor Park. The visitors looked comfortable all the way and lead 2-1 at the interval. Burnie now sit on 24 points, with Riverside one point further behind in fourth spot and both Ulverstone and Prospect Knights on 20 points needed to do better in the final three rounds if they are to get into the top 4.

In the remaining match of the round, second last Launceston City denied Launceston United their first points of the year after defeating them 2-1 after the scores were locked 1-1 at the half time break.

There are no matches to be played in the Southern or Northern Leagues next weekend due to the A League practice match between Melbourne Victory and Central Coast Mariners at Aurora Stadium, Launceston. The Mariners also play a Senior Tasmanian Representative side at KGV Park, Tuesday 27 July.

NORTH RESULTS

Launceston United 1
Launceston City 2 HT 1-1
Prospect Knights 0
Devonport City 1 HT 0-0
Riverside Olympic 1
Burnie United 5 HT 1-2
Northern Rangers 4
Ulverstone 1

SOUTH RESULTS

Tilford Zebras 2
Clarence United 2 HT 0-1
Taroona 1
New Town Eagles 3 HT 0-2
Kingborough Lions 2
Glenorchy Knights 4 HT 2-3
South Hobart -v-
Olympia FC Warriors

NORTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	13	10	3	0	47	18	33
Devonport City	13	10	2	1	46	19	32
Riverside Olympic	13	7	2	4	40	21	23
Ulverstone	13	6	2	5	38	28	20
Prospect Knights	13	6	2	5	37	32	20
Burnie United	13	7	0	6	46	29	21
Somerset	13	5	0	8	31	47	15
Launceston City	13	2	1	10	24	38	7
Launceston United	14	0	0	14	12	86	0

SOUTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	17	16	1	0	54	11	49
Tilford Zebras	18	9	4	5	43	34	31
Glenorchy Knights	16	8	3	5	34	31	27
Clarence United	18	7	6	5	37	34	26
Kingborough Lions	18	6	3	9	23	32	21
New Town Eagles	17	5	5	7	32	32	20
Taroona	17	2	3	12	20	46	9
Olympia FC Warriors	17	1	5	11	18	39	8

NTH NEXT ROUND

Saturday 24th July
Statewide Lakoseljac Cup
Semi-finals

Round 16

Saturday 31st July
Somerset v Launceston United
Cardigan Street 2.30pm
Ulverstone v Riverside Olympic
Ulverstone Showgrounds 2.30pm
Devonport City v Burnie United
Valley Road 2.30pm
Launceston City v Northern Rangers Mitsubishi Park 6.30pm
Prospect Knights - Bye

STH NEXT ROUND

Saturday 24th July
Statewide Lakoseljac Cup
Semi-finals

Round 19

Saturday 31st July
New Town Eagles v Clarence United Clare Street 2.30pm
Kingborough Lions v Hobart Olympia Lightwood Park 2.30pm
Glenorchy Knights v Tilford Zebras KGV Park 2.30pm

Sunday 1st August
South Hobart v Taroona
South Hobart 2.30pm

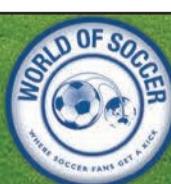


The Glenorchy Knights secured a solid 4-2 win over Kingsborough on the weekend, and with two games in hand are still in good chance for second place.

PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

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RAIDERS RUN OUT TEN MAN GALAXY

By Nat Adamopoulos

Raiders 2-0 win over a ten man Adelaide Galaxy at the Croatian Sports Centre comes at a crucial time, the three points putting the club in a better position to fight possible relegation.

In what was the proverbial six pointer, both sides were out to get maximum points. Raiders the more desperate having one of their worst seasons to date with only one win from the last five matches sitting in ninth place on the ladder.

Galaxy on the other hand had a great start only having one loss in the first nine rounds and at one point sitting in third place had gone without a win in the last five and were slowly slipping down the ladder only 5 points clear of their opposition.

With his side considerably undermanned missing key back men Evan Metanomski and captain Michael Doyle (suspended) and experienced midfielder Steve De Giovanniello (injured), Galaxy Coach Carl Maynard was forced to field a very young side hoping they could take the pressure of the young gun side in Raiders. Galaxy's youngster Brett Rayner couldn't believe his luck having a chance to score within the first minute of the match after Raiders keeper Dan Atkins kicked the ball directly into his path, but managed to salvage a second save to prevent the early goal. In the 11th minute Galaxy's Joe Wright had a pop-shot at goal forcing Atkins to make a diving save and parrying the ball into the path of Adrian Maccolino who put it wide of the far post.

It seemed to be all Rayner's way for the next ten, with the ball just seeming to find him wherever he was and several opportunities going astray frustrating him. Galaxy's McGreevy himself had a chance but with the unevenness of the pitch found the ball bobbling too much to put a clean shot on goal. There was no love lost between the two sides as both played a physical attacking game with little spot fires breaking out all over the pitch that weren't going unnoticed by referee Paul Centrangelo.

In the 28th minute things because unstuck for Galaxy as midfielder Steven Kidd one of the few senior players in the side led with the elbow in a tackle on

Matthew Muscroft that the ref pulled up. The card which was to be a yellow, was then upgraded to a red as Kidd sprinted away from the referee and found himself taking an escorted off the pitch for an early shower. Rayner continued being a menace up front for Galaxy, having yet another shot at Atkins goal making the keeper work hard.

The Raiders managed to get a system going to move the ball forward, the Galaxy defence being able to cut them off until the 39th minute when a long ball from captain Richie Alagich found Paul Mackey deep on the left just outside the box, who under pressure brilliantly outmaneuvered John Fusco to get a cross in to teammate Muscroft. Galaxy's Jake Markham quickly got himself in front of the striker but in the process of trying to clear the ball, lobbed it over and into the back of the net beating his keeper Julian Torresan, which devastated the youngster. Galaxy tried to make up for the own goal, but with only five minutes until the half time break were finding it difficult with the man down.

It was a much more determined Raiders side that came out for the second half, coach John Kosmina's pep talk of players keeping their heads obviously worked wonders.

The Raiders young guns were now firing on all cylinders, Atkins regaining his composure after his hiccup at the start of the match, the backline of Daniel Scordo, Dali Barisic, Harvey and Danny Hain were holding strong, while Michael Acton, Kingsley Francis, Craig Goodwin, and Alagich were all controlling the midfield, leaving Mackey and Muscroft to lurk dangerously upfront. Muscroft was playing with almost a spring in his step, a renewed energy back to the style that spectators have witnessed in the past, his hard work being rewarded in the 61st minute with a beautiful strike from the 35metre mark that beat Torresan comprehensively.

The passage of play saw Kingsley as a casualty pulling up with a strain and Sean Brennan taking his place. This was the spark that the team needed to continue on with the job that needed to be done.

The home side held strong for the remainder of the match with a late attempt

by Goodwin from the far left hitting the cross bar much to his dislike but still seeing the Raiders taking all three points with them. Mimi Saric who had his season end early in the piece with a knee injury commented on how Kosmina has worked hard with the squad to change things around. "We have a great group of young players here and he is working on each players strengths. It was great to get the three points but we are aiming to get another six from the three remaining games, that's the goal".

Raiders now face Western Strikers, league leaders MetroStars and cellar dwellers Cumberland United in their final match of the season.

In the Sunday game Adelaide City made a meal of visitors Western Strikers in their big 5-1 win at Adelaide City Park. City proved just how much depth they have to their squad being able to pull off the big win without centre back Paul Pezos (suspended), defender Keegan Nash coming back from injury, striker Nick Budin also coming back from injury and Daniel Spagnuolo and keeper Dave Picca still to come back.

Strikers also without both LaStella brothers, their two UK imports and Michael Russo up front were also undermanned. Strikers scored very early in the match within the first six minutes care of youngster Adrian D'Alfonso. But it was all basically one way traffic after that, with the midfield doing the damage.

Jordan D'Arsie scored first, with Andrew Marveggio, Riccardo DaSilva and Patrick DeRuvo all finding the back of the net before the half time break. As the second half progressed the Riccardo DaSilva show began to take shape earning him a best on ground, the midfielder playing a more attacking role in this match showing that the striker position is what he plays best of course care of some great supply care from his midfielders.

Jace Cummins had a very solid performance as did Nicky Orr and keeper Luke Ostbye having very little to do this match. Strikers players Yasmin Sudic, Kaitatzis and big unit Steven McNeil put in a solid game but for the second week running it was the Strikers keeper Takumi Takahashi that worked like a trooper showing the wonderful keeping skills

SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
MetroStars	15	10	4	1	35	15	20	34
Para Hills	15	7	5	3	21	18	3	26
Adelaide Blue Eagles	15	7	4	4	34	21	13	25
Campbelltown	15	7	4	4	26	20	6	25
Adelaide City	15	7	2	6	21	24	-3	23
Western Strikers	15	4	7	4	28	29	-1	19
Adelaide Galaxy	15	3	7	5	17	21	-4	16
Adelaide Cobras	15	5	1	9	22	34	-12	16
Raiders	15	3	5	7	15	21	-6	14
Cumberland Utd	15	1	3	11	17	33	-16	6

NEXT ROUND

Round 16

Sat 31/07/2010

Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Metro Stars

3pm Marden Sports Complex

Adelaide Cobras vs Campbelltown

3pm Weigall Oval

Adelaide Galaxy vs Cumberland Utd

3pm Con Makris Park

Para Hills vs Adelaide City

3pm The Paddocks

Western Strikers vs Raiders

3pm Carnegie Reserve

SA RESULTS

DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE
Round 15 Results

Campbelltown City 0 Para Hills 1
(B.Selga) (HT 0-0)
Best – Campbelltown (M.D'Aloisio, V.Parhas, M.Menechella)
Para Hills (B.Selga, J.Allwright, A.Sunasky)
Res – Campbelltown 2 Para Hills 0
U19 – Campbelltown 2 Para Hills 0

Cumberland United 1 (S.Smith)
Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (C.Bugeja)
(HT 0-0)

Best – Cumberland (R.White, S.Smith, T.Briscoe)
Blue Eagles (D.Kenrick, C.Bugeja, G.DeLucia)
Res – Cumberland 0 Blue Eagles 2
U19 – Cumberland 0 Blue Eagles 1

Raiders 2 (M.Muscroft, T.O.G.)
Adelaide Galaxy 0 (HT 1-0)
Best – Raiders (D.Hain, M.Muscroft, M.Acton) Galaxy (C.Christophersen, M.DeBono, B.Rayner)
Res – Raiders 0 Galaxy 0
U19 – Raiders 1 Galaxy 1

Adelaide City 5 (R.DaSilva 2, A.Marveggio, P.Deruovo, J.D'Arsie) Western Strikers 1 (A.D'Alfonso) (HT 4-1)
Best – Adel City (R.DaSilva, N.Orr, J.Cummins)
Strikers (J.Kaitatzis, Y.Sudic, S.McNeill) Reserves and Under 19 matches abandoned due to pitch conditions.

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Modbury	15	11	1	3	42	20	22	34
Croydon	15	9	3	2	28	16	12	30
Adelaide Comets	15	8	1	6	28	25	3	25
Enfield City	15	6	5	4	25	24	1	23
Pirates	15	5	5	5	26	23	3	20
Adelaide Olympic	15	4	5	6	23	23	0	17
Adelaide Hills	15	5	1	9	26	30	-4	16
Salisbury Utd	15	5	1	9	18	30	-12	16
West Adelaide	15	5	1	9	15	36	-21	16
White City Woodville	15	4	3	8	20	24	-4	15

that he has which have earned him a trial for the Adelaide United Football Club.

City is peaking at the right time and with players coming back into the side, will only strengthen as the top five finals approach. No reason why another championship is there for the taking for Damian Mori's strong competitive squad.

Other Round 15 results saw Campbelltown City being beaten at home by the Para Hills Knights 0-1, Brett Selga scoring a late 92nd minute strike to take away all three points for Kenny Tosh's

DEVINE HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE

Adelaide Comets 3 (N.Day, E.Demourtzidis, N.Fleetwood) White City Woodville 2 (F.Bucco, M.Keens) (HT 2-0)
Best – Comets (E.Demourtzidis, D.Zerillo, N.Fleetwood) White City (A.Jackson, R.Saraceno, M.Keens) Res – Comets 2 White City 4 U19 – Comets 6 White City 1

Adelaide Olympic 2 (N.Andjianto, M.Talbot) Salisbury United 1 (R.Harris) (HT 1-1)

Best – Olympic (R.Marveggio, St.Parrisos, J.Pullinen) Salisbury (C.Van Paridon, S.Linday, R.Harris) Res – Olympic 0 Salisbury 2 U19 – Olympic 2 Salisbury 0

Croydon 3 (K.Kosznik,A.Harous, L.Klimek) Adelaide Hills 2 (T.O.G. 2) (HT 2-1)
Best – Croydon (R.Gray, K.Kosznik, A.Harous) Adel Hills (D.Stam, N.Elliott, S.Bowman) Res – Croydon 3 Adel Hills 1 U19 – Croydon 3 Adel Hills 1

Enfield City 2 (D.Parhas 2) Modbury 1 (C.Dean) (HT 1-0) Best – Enfield (D.PAHas, R.Fimmano, D.Martinez) Modbury (D.Elekwachi, D.Crowl, T.McSorley) Res – Enfield 2 Modbury 1 U19 – Enfield 0 Modbury 11

West Adelaide 1 (C.Robinson) Pirates 0 (HT 0-0) Best – West Adel (T.Hatzis, S.Kezios, K.Mantis) Pirates (J.Coley, D.Carbone, J.Mavromatis) Res – West Adel 2 Pirates 1 U19 – West Adel 3 Pirates 4

knights.

At Bailey Reserve Cumberland United almost pulled off a win again Adelaide Blue Eagles drawing 1-1 with the in form team. A great penalty saved in the first half by Eagles keeper Gino Delucia kept his side sharing the points. Goalscorer for the Foxes was Shaun Smith while Chad Bugeja scored for the Eagles. The

Other Sunday match saw league leaders MetroStars take another three points at home by defeating Adelaide Cobras 2-1 with Jackson Groves and Michael Matricciani scoring for the homeside and Con Karitevlis scoring for the Cobras.



Stars before his eyes: Cobras Adrian Aufiero sees Stars before his eyes as Karlovic, Grelli, Robertson and Mettyear all surround him

PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

Monday 19th July 2010

All Square in Nth Queensland Derby

By Jarrod Ellis

With the QSL finalists already looking decided with five rounds to play, Round 17 kicked off with most sides merely jostling for position on the table.

The only match that beared any real significance on the standings was Saturday's North Queensland derby between third placed NQ Razorbacks and fourth placed FNQ Bulls.

The Bulls have long held the wood over the Razorbacks and hopes of securing a win over their rivals were low in Townsville as the home side entered the match without the services of experienced heads Keiran Gonzalez, Lorenzo Sipi and David Mayes. The absence of those three left the Razorbacks heading into the game with the average age of the squad just above 19.

Despite that the home side started the brighter of two, coping well with the physical presence of the more experienced Bulls team. The visitors were unlucky not to score though and may have felt hard done by when Joshua Evans scored in added time to give the Razorbacks a 1-0 lead heading into the break.

Razorback hearts would be broken though as Joe Rusch yet again came to the rescue of the Bulls, firing in an equaliser in the 78th minute, maintaining the Bulls undefeated record against their nearest rivals.

The result maintains the status quo, both sides sitting in third and fourth on the table, the Razorbacks ahead by only one point leaving it all to play for with only four rounds remaining.

Brisbane continued on their winning ways, easily dispatching Whitsunday Miners 3-0 in Mackay. The second-placed Strikers have been in pursuit of Sunshine Coast all season long and despite their quest looking nigh impossible it seems they haven't given up hope of topping the table just yet.

The Miners came into the match without the influential trio of captain Brett Neeve, Daniel Scotton and goalkeeper Brad Moss, only making the difficult task facing them even harder.

During the week Miners' coach Troy Mundy had spoken of the need to 'focus for ninety minutes' if his side were to have any chance of a result and the early signs were encouraging for the home side.

Whitsunday went into the break with the score 0-0 a result that they no doubt would have gladly settled for. The second half wouldn't prove as enjoyable though as Mundy's fear of not competing for the full ninety came to fruition. As so often has been the case this season for Brisbane, Matt Thurtell was the man who would break the deadlock. The young striker scored Brisbane's first in the 76th minute before adding a second from the penalty spot four minutes from time.

Michael Angus rounded out the win



Sunshine Coast's Tyson Holmes (#10) under pressure following his 4:30am start to the day. Holmes flew in from trialling with the NQ Fury the same day to take the field in the Fire's match against the Cougars. Later in the match Fire's Yuta Gonai (#17) was provider for Holmes' goal. The Cougar players are Anthony Hartnell (#16) and Tom Evans (#17). PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL

in the 89th minute after returning from an illness that ruled him out of last week's match against NQ Razorbacks.

Down at Stockland Park, Yuta Gonai continued his recent impressive form as he struck first for Sunshine Coast in a 2-0 win over Capricorn Cougars. The Fire started heavy favourites for the match, knowing a win would leave them only three points from claiming

the title.

After their impressive 5-0 win over Whitsunday last week Cougars coach Brad Smith would have been hopeful of securing some kind of result against the competition leaders but it wasn't to be for the visitors despite a valiant effort.

Gonai's first half effort was followed up by a goal from Fire's talisman Ty-

son Holmes who added a second only seven minutes from time. Holmes took part in the match despite trialling with North Queensland Fury the previous day, a move that would not come as unexpected following his form in the QSL these past two seasons.

The final game of the round was a clash between Bundaberg Spirit and QAS at Martens Oval that eventually

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast	17	15	1	1	52	22	30	46
2 Brisbane Strikers	17	11	3	3	48	17	31	36
3 NQ Razorbacks	17	8	3	6	29	20	9	27
4 FNQ Bulls	17	8	2	7	37	35	2	26
5 QAS	15	5	2	8	33	44	-11	17
6 Capricorn Cougars	16	4	2	10	20	33	-13	14
7 Whitsunday Miners	16	3	4	9	22	36	-14	13
8 Bundaberg Spirit	17	2	3	12	22	56	-34	9

RESULTS

NQ Razorbacks 1 (Evans 45) v FNQ Bulls 1 (Rusch 78)

Whitsunday Miners 0 v Brisbane Strikers 3 (Thurtell 76, 86pen, Angus 89)

Sunshine Coast 2 (Gonai 36, Holmes 83) v Capricorn Cougars 0

Bundaberg Spirit 3 (Fitzgerald 27, 89, OG 74) v QAS 4 (Dougall 22, Satake 37, 70, Russell 68)

NEXT ROUND

ROUND 18

Brisbane Strikers v Sunshine Coast FC Sat 24 July 7:00pm

NQ Razorbacks v Whitsunday Miners Sat 24 July 7:30pm

QAS v FNQ Bulls

Sun 25 July 2:00pm

Bundaberg Spirit v Capricorn Cougars Sun 25 July 3:00pm

finished 4-3 in favour of the visitors.

Bundaberg have come along in leaps and bounds in recent weeks and are becoming more confident of achieving their goal of moving off the bottom of the ladder.

QAS have a good record against the Wide Bay side however and it wouldn't have come as a shock to the home support when Ken Dougall gave the visitors the lead in only the 22nd minute.

Earlier in the year conceding an early goal would have knocked the heart out of Bundaberg but they wasted no time in finding an equaliser on this occasion, star striker Nick Fitzgerald pulled his side level only five minutes later with a well taken goal.

However that was to be as good as things got for the home side as QAS played some good football, keeping Bundaberg under pressure for much of the game.

QAS striker Koh Satake scored a brace, recording goals either side of a 68th minute effort from Bobby Russell, essentially securing the three points with a 4-1 scoreline and only twenty minutes to play.

The Spirit didn't give up however and continued to search for a way back, pressuring the QAS into putting the ball into their own net in the 74th minute before Fitzgerald added a second in the 89th. They proved to only be consolations though as QAS held on for a deserved 4-3 win.



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LOG JAM AT TOP OF GATORADE PREMIER

By Russ Gibbs

The fight for finals places is hotting up at the top of the Gatorade Premier League following Round 12 action across Canberra with only goal difference separating third through fifth on the latest standings. And with sixth placed Canberra Olympic only a further three points adrift things could hardly be tighter with only six rounds of the regular season remaining.

At the top of the table Canberra FC and Belconnen United kept up their charge for the top two with narrow victories in differing circumstances. Canberra FC was indebted to goals from Alex Castro, his eighth of the season, and Stephen Lee to see off a spirited challenge from ANU FC in their 2-1 win at ANU North Oval. The champions bounced back from a 2-2 draw with nine-man Tuggeranong last week by taking a 2-0 lead just after the interval before Mohsen Ravanparsa reduced the deficit to make it a nervy finale for Stan Dukic's men.

Second placed Belconnen United has stretched their lead over Cooma Tigers in third to seven points with a thrilling 3-2 win at Nijong Oval against the Tigers. A brace of goals from Cameron Reinhart, the second a header from the diminutive midfielder who was the smallest man on the park, won the match after the Tigers twice pegged back the Blue Devils lead. After Reinhart had given Belconnen a 1-0 lead at the break home forward Daniel Gecic equalised before Dustin Wells restored the Blue Devils advantage. Goran Josifovski levelled

the scores for the second time before Reinhart won it, heading in Well's inswinging free-kick, to give Scott Conlon's team a priceless three points.

Monaro Panthers meanwhile drew level with Cooma on the table after defeating Canberra City, who was immediately above the Panthers on the ladder, 3-1 at Hawker Football Centre. Geoff Howarth was the Panthers hero with a brace of goals in peculiar circumstances the first a looping cross that was fumbled by City 'keeper James Ward and his second, Monaro's third, from a curling cross that deceived the uncharacteristically nervy James Ward in the City goal. In between Howarth's pair a goal from Goran Veljanovski doubled the Panthers lead whilst a late striker from City's leading scorer, Misko Naumoski, was far too late to trouble the outcome.

Canberra Olympic has given themselves a shot at a finals berth after narrowly beating Goulburn Strikers 2-1 at Cookbundoon. Olympic came from behind to Goulburn to steal the three points with goals from Matt Cachia and Domenic Giampaolo. Earlier, Brody Willis had struck for the eighth time this season to give the Strikers the lead only for their profligacy in front of goal to hurt them for the umpteenth time in 2010.

Elsewhere, Woden Valley won the battle of the bottom-two, in the process moving themselves up to eighth, with a 3-1 win over Tuggeranong United at Kambah. On a muddy pitch not conducive to good football Woden adopted a direct style of play that was to provide ample reward. The visi-

tors took the lead in the 16th minute when Daryll Hall converted a penalty given after a handball in the area and the Valley side doubled their lead 21 minutes from time through Lachlan Nichols. Tuggeranong got back into the game sixty seconds later when Alex Weber struck his seventh goal of the season but a late third from substitute Lukas Cole ensured the 3-1 away win.

ANU WFC CONTINUE TO SHINE

ANU WFC had all their 'mad skills on show' as they held Belconnen United to a 0-0 draw at McKellar Park in Round 14 of The Tradies Women's Premier League. The students backed up their shock 1-0 victory over table-toppers Belwest Foxes with another stunning defensive display to frustrate Antoni Jagarinec's free-scoring Blue Devils.

Lara Cleaver in the ANU defence marshalled Matildas striker Caitlin Munoz well for most of the match although the experienced Canberra United forward still had enough chances to get her name on the score sheet. At the other end Sarah Everett could have stolen all three points for the visitors but was denied by a fine piece of goalkeeping from Belconnen shot-stopper Jocelyn Mara.

Belwest meanwhile bounced back from their stunning setback to ANU last weekend with a comprehensive 4-0 win over Weston Creek in a repeat of the 2009 Grand Final. The

Foxes were always in control of the match scoring twice in each half through Katrina Staniforth, Cian Maciejewski, Emma Beaumont and Gemma Matheson to get their season back on track following their first loss of 2010.

Woden Valley keep hot on the heels of their long time rivals after a 5-1 victory over Canberra FC at Deakin Stadium. Woden played some excellent football in seeing off their opponents but survived a major scare when goalkeeper Gill Raymond was called upon to save a penalty from Canberra United player Rebecca Kiting with the score at 2-1. Ashlea Bryant had got Canberra FC back into the match with a goal to make it 2-1 after the Valley girls had stormed into the lead but after Kiting's spot-kick was saved Woden ran away with the match. Hayley Hinde and Ashleigh Palombi each struck twice with a goal from Jenna Walsh completing the 5-1 win.

A hat-trick from Kate Allen was the highlight of Tuggeranong United's 7-1 win over Brindabella Blues at Kambah 2. Allen struck inside the first minute to get the home team off to a flyer and United led 3-1 at the break with Erin Hinton's goal for Brindabella giving the visitors some hope of a surprise result after Allen had completed her early treble. However second half goals from Ash Neall, Annica Schoo, Jen Malbon and a rare effort from vice-captain Sigourney Dunk completed a handsome home win.

NEXT ROUND

Round 13

Sat 24 Jul KO 3pm Tuggeranong Utd v Belconnen Utd
Kambah 2-1

Sun 25 Jul KO 3pm ANU FC v Woden Valley
ANU North Oval 1

Sun 25 Jul KO 3pm Canberra FC v Monaro Panthers
Deakin Stadium (Deakin Oval)

Sun 25 Jul KO 3pm Cooma Tigers v Goulburn Strikers
Nijong Oval

Sun 25 Jul KO 4pm Canberra City v Canberra Olympic
Hawker Football Centre

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	G	Pts
11 Canberra FC	12	8	4	0	40	9	+31 28
2 Belconnen United	12	8	2	2	31	18	+13 26
3 Cooma Tigers	12	5	4	3	23	16	+7 19
4 Canberra City	12	6	1	5	18	17	+1 19
5 Monaro Panthers	12	6	1	5	18	22	-4 19
6 Canberra Olympic	12	4	4	4	14	16	-2 16
7 Goulburn Strikers	12	3	3	6	23	18	+5 12
8 Woden Valley	12	4	0	8	15	29	-14 12
9 Tuggeranong United	12	2	3	7	15	36	-21 9
10 ANU FC	12	3	0	9	12	36	-24 9

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	G	Pts
1 Belwest Foxes	14	13	0	1	65	10	+55 39
2 Woden Valley	13	10	1	2	49	12	+37 30
3 Weston Creek	14	6	3	5	28	23	+5 21
4 Belconnen United	14	5	4	5	40	16	+24 19
5 Canberra FC	14	5	4	5	24	36	-13 19
6 Tuggeranong United	14	4	3	7	31	33	-1 15
7 ANU WFC	13	3	3	7	12	27	-15 12
8 Brindabella Blues	14	0	0	14	9	102	-93 0

ACT RESULTS

ANU FC 1 (Mohsen Ravanparsa 53') Canberra FC 2 (Alex Castro 34', Stephen Lee 49')

Tuggeranong United 1 (Alex Weber 70') Woden Valley 3 (Daryll Hall 16' (pen), Lachlan Nichols 69', Lukas Cole 81')

Cooma Tigers 2 (Daniel Gecic 49', Goran Josifovski 72') Belconnen United 3 (Cameron Reinhart 30', 83', Dustin Wells 87')

Goulburn Strikers 1 (Brody Willis) Canberra Olympic 2 (Matt Cachia, Domenic Giampaolo)

Canberra City 1 (Misko Naumoski 91') Monaro Panthers 3 (Geoff Howarth 59', 85', Goran Veljanovski 82')

WPL
Belconnen United 0 ANU WFC 0

Canberra FC 1 (Ashlea Bryant) Woden Valley 5 (Hayley Hinde (2), Ashleigh Palombi (2), Jenna Walsh)

Weston Creek 0 Belwest Foxes 4 (Katrina Staniforth, Emma Beaumont, Cian Maciejewski, Gemma Matheson)

Tuggeranong United 7 (Kate Allen 1', 16', 35', Ash Neall 48', Annica Schoo 56', Jen Malbon 78', Sigourney Dunk 88') Brindabella Blues 1 (Erin Hinton 26')



ACT Premier League action from Monaro Panthers (stripes) 3-1 win over Canberra City (yellow). PHOTO: RUSS GIBBS

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MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST:
Ascot Vale 0 Yarra Jets 7 (E Grabben E Williams C Lenehan L Broderick 2 S Crilly), Heidelberg Stars 4 (M Ahmed DD Ahmed 2 Own Goal) Northern Utd 1, Keon Park 0 Oak Park 4 (H Unal M Erdal M Canpolat G Cetnik), Tullamarine Jets 1 (I Aygun) Moreland Wolves 1 (S Fatini). Reserves: Ascot Vale 3 Yarra Jets 3, Heidelberg Stars 1 Northern Utd 0, Keon Park 0 Oak Park 4, Tullamarine Jets 1 Moreland Wolves 3

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: St Kevin's 2 (S Clark W Hughes) Dandenong Warriors 6 (B Meunier L Palmire 4 B Balthazar), Harrisfield Hurricanes 4 (D Mayne N Phaedonos 2 T Mefut) Endeavour Hills 2 (K Evenor J Gonvalves), Caulfield Grammarians 1 (N Talbot) Old Mentonians 1 (M Watling), Middle Park FC 2 (M Roberts M Furness) Parkmore 1 (D Levoli). Reserves: St Kevin's 1 Dandenong Warriors 2, Harrisfield Hurricanes 3 Endeavour Hills 3, Caulfield Grammarians 1 Old Mentonians 0, Middle Park FC 9 Parkmore 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Whitehorse Utd 1 (VJ Castro) Monbulk 1 (MA Deboer), Bayswater Strikers 3 (E Murray-Bartlett 3) South Yarra 4 (L Alonzo E Padovano), Bundoora Utd 3 (M Zilic) South Springvale 1 (R Mortelaro), Brighton 0 Doncaster Rovers 5 (L Stevens C Tangelos E Kyrgios 2 R Payne). Reserves: Whitehorse Utd 0 Monbulk 1, Bayswater Strikers 4 South Yarra 0, Bundoora Utd 2 South Springvale 2, Brighton 0 Doncaster Rovers 6

WOEMNS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Western Suburbs 5 (A Gialamatzis 2) Whittlesea Ranges FC 0, North Geelong Warriors 4 (J Milinkovic M Medved D Marincic) Melbourne Bears 1 (C Akbulut), Darebin Falcons 0 Cairnlea 3 (D Mutluel 2 M Huremovic), Monbulk 1 Noble Park 2 (S Davies S O'Brien), Albert Park 4 (S Baack 2 H Saur C Dixon) Sandringham 2 (KL O'Connor C Mayston), Berwick City 2 Monash University 1, Southern Suburbs 1 (T Moutafis) Mooroolbark 1 (A D'Ortenzio)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Maribyrnong Utd 1 (F Mandiola) Brunswick Zebras 3 (GA Colla N Italiano), Melton 5 (KK Thompson) Kyneton District 0, Old Carey 3 (E Jenkins L Dana ZB Paterson) Keilor Park 11 (D Lettieri 2 L Street M Emond 3 H Hogarth 3), Diamond Valley Utd 5 (KL Bouwmeester M Chadwick E Blair L Woolhouse) Sunshine George Cross 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 0 North Caulfield 0, Mornington 1 (J Vanstekelenburg) Noble Park 2 (S Davies S O'Brien), Albert Park 4 (S Baack 2 H Saur C Dixon) Sandringham 2 (KL O'Connor C Mayston), Berwick City 2 Monash University 1, Southern Suburbs 1 (T Moutafis) Mooroolbark 1 (A D'Ortenzio)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST: Maribyrnong Utd 1 (F Mandiola) Brunswick Zebras 3 (GA Colla N Italiano), Melton 5 (KK Thompson) Kyneton District 0, Old Carey 3 (E Jenkins L Dana ZB Paterson) Keilor Park 11 (D Lettieri 2 L Street M Emond 3 H Hogarth 3), Diamond Valley Utd 5 (KL Bouwmeester M Chadwick E Blair L Woolhouse) Sunshine George Cross 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 6 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 0 Seaford Utd 3 (P McGowan A Piper), Endeavour Utd 0 (K Allan K Fernandes L Mousaco 3 S Roshan J Nguyen D Pierias 2) Beaumaris 1 (M Lee Gow), Croydon City Arrows 0 Box Hill Inter 4 (M Anderson), Knox City 1 (CE Marshall) East Bentleigh 1 (E Toleafoa), South Melbourne 8 Langwarrin 1

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Fitzroy City 0 Brunswick City 5, Northern Roosters 0 Yarra Jets 6, Plenty Valley Lions 0 Melbourne Knights 2, Tullamarine Jets 0 Brunswick Zebras 2

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Berwick City 10 Monash University 0, Croydon City Arrows 3 Mooroolbark 1, Dandenong City 7 (S Nesci S Jamieson MA Hubee 3 K 3 Totic A Milusic) Endeavour Hills 0, Sandringham 0 Kingston City 7, St Kevins 0

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1: Southern Suburbs 3 Marcellin Old Collegians 0, Juventus Old Boys 3 Doveton 4

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Brunswick City 3 Melbourne University 0, Moreland City 1 Upfield 1, Monbulk 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Berwick City 0 South Yarra 2, Ballarat & District 0

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Plenty Valley Lions 3 Werribee City 1, Northcote City 9 La Trobe University 0, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Melbourne Lions 0

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Old Haileybury 1 Brandon Park 0, Melbourne University 0 Riversdale 4,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: Monash University 0 Elwood City 3, Ashburton 3 South Yarra 7, Bundoora Utd 0

MENSTHIRDSLEAGUEDIV5NORTH-WEST: Heidelberg Utd 2 Kyneton District 1, Altona City 5 Mitchell Rangers 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST: Frankston Pines 5 Keysborough 3, Middle Park FC 1 Dandenong Thunder 4, Bunyip & District Soccer Club 2 Eltham Redback FC 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIVISION 6: Old Scotch 0 Brimbank Stallions 6, Beaumaris 3 Epping City 0, Sandringham City 1 2 Moreland Utd 2, Springvale City 4 Sandringham City 2 6

MENS MASTERS NORTH-WEST: Moreland City 1 Whittlesea Zebras 0,

MENS MASTERS SOUTH-EAST: Doveton 1 Glen Waverley 0,

MENS MASTERS CENTRAL: Ashburton 1 Juventus Old Boys 3, Middle Park FC 2 Brighton 1, Eastern Lions 1 South Yarra 1, Beaumaris 2 Collingwood City 4

Mens Metropolitan League North-West P W D L F A PT Albert Park 12 8 1 3 41 14 25

Tullamarine Jets 14 8 4 2 32 16 28 Moreland Wolves 14 8 3 3 30 15 27 Heidelberg Stars 14 8 3 2 36 19 27

Yarra Jets 14 5 4 5 32 27 19 Light Utd 13 5 4 4 21 21 19

Oak Park 14 6 6 2 39 24 17 Altona North 13 4 5 4 26 25 17

Keon Park 14 3 2 9 24 49 11 Northern Utd 14 2 3 9 17 30 9

Ascot Vale 14 1 4 9 12 33 6

Mens Metropolitan League North-West Reserves P W D L F A PT

Heidelberg Stars 14 10 4 0 49 23 34

Light Utd 13 9 2 2 41 21 29

Northern Utd 14 9 1 4 39 24 28

Moreland Wolves 14 8 2 4 42 23 26

Tullamarine Jets 14 7 3 4 36 29 24

Oak Park 14 7 1 6 32 29 22

Altona North 13 4 5 4 26 25 17

Keon Park 14 3 2 9 24 49 11

Northern Utd 14 2 3 9 17 30 9

Ascot Vale 14 1 4 9 12 33 6

Mens Metropolitan League North-West Reserves P W D L F A PT

Heidelberg Stars 14 10 4 0 49 23 34

Light Utd 13 9 2 2 41 21 29

Northern Utd 14 9 1 4 39 24 28

Moreland Wolves 14 8 2 4 42 23 26

Tullamarine Jets 14 7 3 4 36 29 24

Oak Park 14 7 1 6 32 29 22

Altona North 13 4 5 4 26 25 17

Keon Park 14 3 2 9 24 49 11

Northern Utd 14 2 3 9 17 30 9

Ascot Vale 14 1 4 9 12 33 6

Mens Metropolitan League North-West Reserves P W D L F A PT

Heidelberg Stars 12 11 1 0 56 7 34

Light Utd 12 9 2 1 37 12 29

Northern Utd 11 7 3 1 26 16 24

Harrisfield Hurricanes 12 6 4 2 29 20 22

Parkmore 11 5 1 5 20 19 16

Ringwood City 12 4 2 6 18 30 14

Old Mentonians 10 3 4 3 17 16 13

Caulfield Grammarians 13 2 5 6 15 22 11

Endeavour Hills 13 2 3 8 20 28 9

St Kevins 12 2 2 8 20 39 8

Mens Metropolitan League South-East Reserves P W D L F A PT

Middle Park FC 12 11 1 0 56 7 34

Dandenong Warriors 11 7 3 1 26 16 24

Harrisfield Hurricanes 12 6 4 2 29 20 22

Yarra Jets 11 5 1 5 20 19 16

Monbulk 12 4 4 4 15 13 16

South Springvale 12 5 0 7 24 23 15

Whitehorse Utd 12 2 3 7 22 37 9

Brighton 12 1 1 10 8 44 4

South Yarra 12 1 0 11 8 58 3

Mens Metropolitan League South-East Reserves P W D L F A PT

Bundoora Utd 12 10 0 2 44 13 30

Doncaster Rovers 12 9 2 1 38 9 29

Ballarat & District 10 7 2 1 33 11 23

Uni. of Melbourne 11 6 1 4 27 17 19

Bayswater Strikers 11 6 1 4 31 25 19

Monbulk 12 4 4 4 15 13 16

South Springvale 12 5 0 7 24 23 15

Whitehorse Utd 12 2 3 7 22 37 9

Brighton 12 1 1 10 8 44 4

South Yarra 12 1 0 11 8 58 3

Mens Metropolitan League South-East Reserves P W D L F A PT

Bundoora Utd 12 10 0 2 44 13 30

Doncaster Rovers 12 9 2 1 38 9 29

Ballarat & District 10 7 2 1 33 11 23

Uni. of Melbourne 11 6 1 4 27 17 19

Bayswater Strikers 11 6 1 4 31 25 19

Monbulk 12 4 4 4 15 13 16

South Springvale 12 5 0 7 24 23 15

Whitehorse Utd 12 2 3 7 22 37 9

Brighton 12 1 1 10 8 44 4

South Yarra 12 1 0 11 8 58 3

Mens Metropolitan League South-East Reserves P W D L F A PT

Bundoora Utd 12 10 0 2 44 13 30

Doncaster Rovers 12 9 2 1 38 9 29

Ballarat & District 10 7 2 1 33 11 23

Uni. of Melbourne 11 6 1 4 27 17 19

Bayswater Strikers 11 6 1 4 31 25 19

Monbulk 12 4 4 4 15 13 16

South Springvale 12 5 0 7 24 23 15

Whitehorse Utd 12 2 3 7 22 37 9

Brighton 12 1 1 10 8 44 4

South Yarra 12 1 0 11 8 58 3

Mens Metropolitan League South-East Reserves P W D L F A PT

Bundoora Utd 12 10 0 2 44 13 30

Doncaster Rovers 12 9 2 1 38 9 29

Ballarat & District 10 7 2 1 33 11 23

Uni. of Melbourne 11 6 1 4 27 17 19

Bayswater Strikers 11 6 1 4 31 25 19

Monbulk 12 4 4 4 15 13 16

South Springvale 12 5 0 7 24 23 15

Whitehorse Utd 12 2 3 7 22 37 9

Brighton 12 1 1 10 8 44 4

South Yarra 12 1 0 11 8 58 3

Mens Metropolitan League South-East Reserves P W D L F A PT

Bundoora Utd 12 10 0 2 44 13 30

Doncaster Rovers 12 9 2 1 38 9 29

Ballarat & District 10 7 2 1 33 11 23

Uni. of Melbourne 11 6 1 4 27 17 19

Bayswater Strikers 11 6 1 4 31 25 19

Monbulk 12 4 4 4 15 13 16

South Springvale 12 5 0 7 24 23 15

Whitehorse Utd 12 2 3 7 22 37 9

Brighton 12 1 1 10 8 44 4

South Yarra 12 1 0 11 8 58 3



Victorian Junior Results & Ladders

goalweekly.com

Boys South-South East 16 B: North Caulfield Brighton , Berwick City 11 East Bentleigh 0 , Hampton Southern Stars , Heatherton Utd 5 Peninsula 0	Cannons 0 , Boroondara Eagles 1 4 South Melbourne 0 , Boroondara Eagles 2 4 Ashburton 0	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Purple (Sun): Brunswick City 4 Brunswick Zebras 2 0 , Essendon Royals 6 North City Lions 1 , Moreland City Melbourne Phoenix , Moreland Utd 5 Flemington Eagles 0 , Brunswick Zebras 1 3 Avondale Heights 0	Whitehorse Utd 11 2 0 9 16 60 6 Ringwood City 11 0 1 10 12 57 1	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 15 A P W D L F A PT Bundoora Utd 11 10 1 0 55 5 31 South Melbourne 10 7 2 2 35 8 20 Richmond 10 6 2 1 37 13 23 Preston Lions 9 5 1 3 18 11 16 FC Clifton Hill 10 5 0 5 15 25 15 Heidelberg Stars 11 4 0 7 22 32 12 Whittlesea Ranges FC 11 3 2 6 19 17 11 Yarra Jets 10 1 0 9 11 55 33 Banyule City 10 1 0 9 9 55 3
Boys South 12 A: Bye Mornington , Berwick City 0 Peninsula 2 , Dandenong City 0 Dandenong Thunder 2 , Doveton 0 South Eastern Piranhas 9	Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 C: Watsonia Heights Oakleigh Cannons , Brandon Park 4 Waverley Victory 2 , FC Bulleen Lions 5 Greenvale Utd 0 , DOC Utd 0 Glen Waverley 5	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 1 3 Light Utd 0 , Essendon Royals 2 Brunswick Zebras , Moreland City 0 Fawkner 3 , Pascoe Vale 4 Keilor Wolves 0 , Upfield 2 Gisborne 0	Boys 18 Purple P W D L F A PT FC Bulleen Lions 12 10 0 2 33 13 30 South Melbourne 12 10 0 2 33 13 30 Richmond 12 8 1 3 33 11 25 Sunshine George Cross 11 6 2 3 24 13 20 Dandenong Thunder 11 3 3 5 17 21 12 Green Gully Cavaliers 11 3 2 6 20 19 11 Altona Magic 12 2 4 6 14 30 10 Heidelberg Utd 11 2 4 5 15 24 7 Northcote City 12 1 4 7 19 42 7 Oakleigh Cannons 12 0 4 8 12 34 4	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 15 B P W D L F A PT Bundoora Utd 11 11 0 1 57 15 30 South Melbourne 12 8 0 4 65 27 24 Diamond Valley Utd 1 11 6 1 4 34 22 19 Maribyrnong Greens 12 6 1 5 35 24 16 Richmond 12 3 1 8 26 38 10 Alphington 12 3 1 8 50 40 10 Melbourne Lions 11 1 1 9 8 52 4 Malvern City 12 1 0 11 9 80 3
Boys South 12 B: Baxter 0 Hampton Park Utd 5 , Berwick City 0 Mornington 3 , Doveton 5 Langwarrin 0 , Endeavour Utd 1 Peninsula 4	Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 D: Croydon City Arrows 2 Yarra Jets 2 , Boronia South Yarra , Eltham Redback FC 4 Eastern Lions 0	North West-North-Central SSF Girls 11 (Sun): South Melbourne 1 0 Banyule City 1 3 , Bye Greenvale Utd , South Melbourne 2 1 Banyule City 2 6 , Essendon Royals 2 Fawkner 5 , South Yarra 0 FC Clifton Hill , Kensington JGSC 1 Yarra Jets 0	Boys 18 South-East P W D L F A PT Oakleigh Cannons 11 7 3 1 38 13 24 Southern Suburbs 12 8 0 4 35 11 24 Eastern Lions 12 7 2 3 42 18 23 Bentleigh Greens 11 7 1 3 40 15 22 FC Bulleen Lions 12 7 0 5 56 19 21 Riversdale 12 6 3 3 35 20 21 Brighton 12 5 3 4 36 20 18 East Bentleigh 12 3 0 9 24 60 9 Manningham 12 2 2 8 24 38 8 Bayside Argonauts 12 0 0 12 2118 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 15 B P W D L F A PT Bundoora Utd 11 10 0 1 57 15 30 South Melbourne 12 8 0 4 65 27 24 Diamond Valley Utd 1 11 6 1 4 34 22 19 Maribyrnong Greens 12 6 1 5 35 24 16 Richmond 12 3 1 8 26 38 10 Alphington 12 3 1 8 50 40 10 Melbourne Lions 11 1 1 9 8 52 4 Malvern City 12 1 0 11 9 80 3
Boys South 12 C: Berwick City 3 James Cook FC 0 , Berwick City 0 Casey Panthers 3 , Carrum Utd 1 Peninsula 0 , Heatherton Utd 9 Mornington 0 , Westernport 0 Keysborough 0	Girls South East - South 13-14 A: Berwick City 7 North Caulfield 0 , Hampton Sandringham , Bye Peninsula , Brighton 3 Carrum Utd 1	North-Central SSF Boys 11 Joeys/Kangaroos (Sun): Whittlesea Ranges FC Bye , Banyule City Watsonia Heights , Bundoora Utd 1 FC Clifton Hill , Yarra Jets 1 South Melbourne 6 , Sporting Whittlesea 7 Bundoora Utd 2 2	Boys 18 South-East P W D L F A PT Oakleigh Cannons 11 7 3 1 38 13 24 Southern Suburbs 12 8 0 4 35 11 24 Eastern Lions 12 7 2 3 42 18 23 Bentleigh Greens 11 7 1 3 40 15 22 FC Bulleen Lions 12 7 0 5 56 19 21 Riversdale 12 6 3 3 35 20 21 Brighton 12 5 3 4 36 20 18 East Bentleigh 12 3 0 9 24 60 9 Manningham 12 2 2 8 24 38 8 Bayside Argonauts 12 0 0 12 2118 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 15 B P W D L F A PT Bundoora Utd 11 10 0 1 57 15 30 South Melbourne 12 8 0 4 65 27 24 Diamond Valley Utd 1 11 6 1 4 34 22 19 Maribyrnong Greens 12 6 1 5 35 24 16 Richmond 12 3 1 8 26 38 10 Alphington 12 3 1 8 50 40 10 Melbourne Lions 11 1 1 9 8 52 4 Malvern City 12 1 0 11 9 80 3
Boys South 13 A: Berwick City 5 Mornington 0 , Dandenong City 0 Hampton Park Utd 1 , Doveton 0 Springvale White Eagles 1 , Langwarrin 2 South Eastern Piranhas 1	Girls South East - South 13-14 B: Sandringham 1 7 Carrum Utd 0 , Hampton 0 Brighton 2 7 , Southern Stars North Caulfield , Brighton 1 1 Mornington 2 , Casey Panthers 0 Sandringham 2 0	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Blue (Sat): Glen Eira Brighton 3 , Sandringham City 3 East Bentleigh 1 , Hampton 1 Brighton 2 3 , Beaumaris 2 3 Hampton 2 1 , Bayside Argonauts 2 Beaumaris 1 2 , Dandenong Warriors Brighton 1	Boys 18 Eastern P W D L F A PT Oakleigh Cannons 11 7 3 1 38 13 24 Southern Suburbs 12 8 0 4 35 11 24 Eastern Lions 12 7 2 3 42 18 23 Bentleigh Greens 11 7 1 3 40 15 22 FC Bulleen Lions 12 7 0 5 56 19 21 Riversdale 12 6 3 3 35 20 21 Brighton 12 5 3 4 36 20 18 East Bentleigh 12 3 0 9 24 60 9 Manningham 12 2 2 8 24 38 8 Bayside Argonauts 12 0 0 12 2118 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 15 B P W D L F A PT Bundoora Utd 11 10 0 1 57 15 30 South Melbourne 12 8 0 4 65 27 24 Diamond Valley Utd 1 11 6 1 4 34 22 19 Maribyrnong Greens 12 6 1 5 35 24 16 Richmond 12 3 1 8 26 38 10 Alphington 12 3 1 8 50 40 10 Melbourne Lions 11 1 1 9 8 52 4 Malvern City 12 1 0 11 9 80 3
Boys South 13 B: Baxter 1 Casey Comets 5 , Berwick City 0 Langwarrin 0 , Carrum Utd 3 Peninsula 6 , Southern Stars White Star Dandenong , Endeavour Utd 1 Mornington 0	Girls South East - South 13-14 C: Mornington 1 Rosebud 0 , Berwick City 1 East Bentleigh 4 , Seaford Utd 2 Sandringham 2 , Glen Eira Yarra Jets , Langwarrin 0 White Star Dandenong 8 , Endeavour Utd Oakleigh Cannons	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Sandringham City 2 3 Brighton 2 2 , Brighton 1 6 Glen Eira 2 3 , East Bentleigh 1 4 Brighton 3 1 , Beaumaris 1 0 Glen Eira 3 4 , Beaumaris 2 2 Sandringham City 1 1 , Bye Glen Eira 1	Boys 18 South-East P W D L F A PT Oakleigh Cannons 11 7 3 1 38 13 24 Southern Suburbs 12 8 0 4 35 11 24 Eastern Lions 12 7 2 3 42 18 23 Bentleigh Greens 11 7 1 3 40 15 22 FC Bulleen Lions 12 7 0 5 56 19 21 Riversdale 12 6 3 3 35 20 21 Brighton 12 5 3 4 36 20 18 East Bentleigh 12 3 0 9 24 60 9 Manningham 12 2 2 8 24 38 8 Bayside Argonauts 12 0 0 12 2118 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 15 B P W D L F A PT Bundoora Utd 11 10 0 1 57 15 30 South Melbourne 12 8 0 4 65 27 24 Diamond Valley Utd 1 11 6 1 4 34 22 19 Maribyrnong Greens 12 6 1 5 35 24 16 Richmond 12 3 1 8 26 38 10 Alphington 12 3 1 8 50 40 10 Melbourne Lions 11 1 1 9 8 52 4 Malvern City 12 1 0 11 9 80 3
Boys South 14 A: Casey Comets 8 Dandenong Thunder 2 , Berwick City 1 Mornington 0 , Doveton 0 South Springvale 1 , Langwarrin 1 , Lyndale Utd 5 Peninsula 2	Girls South East - South 13-14 D: Noble Park 1 Bayside Knights 0 , Peninsula 1 Carrum Utd 4 , Mornington 7 North Caulfield 1 , Casey Panthers 2 Sandringham 1 , Langwarrin 3 Brighton 1	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Orange (Sun): East Bentleigh 4 Aspendale 1 , North Caulfield 2 Bye , Bayside Argonauts 2 Beaumaris 1 2 , Dandenong Warriors Brighton 1	Boys 18 Southern P W D L F A PT Frankston Pines 12 9 1 2 48 12 28 Casey Comets 12 9 1 2 39 12 28 South Eastern Piranhas 12 8 2 2 48 17 25 Bayside Knights 12 8 2 2 52 22 25 Berwick City 12 6 1 5 31 24 19 Endeavour Utd 11 4 2 5 28 22 14 Springvale City 11 4 0 7 24 41 12 Brandon Park 12 3 1 8 24 41 10 Peninsula 12 3 0 9 34 56 9 Baxter 12 0 0 12 10 90 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 16 A P W D L F A PT Richmond 11 9 1 1 65 10 28 Richmond 2 10 8 1 1 28 10 25 South Melbourne 10 7 1 2 38 10 22 Epping City 11 4 3 4 20 22 15 Malvern City 10 3 3 4 20 18 12 Bundoora Utd 11 3 3 5 18 24 12 Preston Lions 11 3 1 7 18 28 10 FC Clifton Hill 10 3 1 6 23 46 10 Whittlesea Ranges FC 10 0 0 10 5 67 0
Boys South 14 B: Berwick City 1 Keysborough 2 , Carrum Utd 0 Seaford Utd 3 , Doveton 1 , Langwarrin 1 , Lyndale Utd 5 Peninsula 2	Girls South East - South 15-16 A: Bye Mornington , Sandringham 2 Carrum Utd 2 , Dandenong City 6 Glen Eira 1 , Southern Stars North Caulfield , Baxter 1 Peninsula 3	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sun): Sandringham City 2 3 Brighton 2 2 , Brighton 1 6 Glen Eira 2 3 , East Bentleigh 1 4 Brighton 3 1 , Beaumaris 2 3 Hampton 2 1 , Bayside Argonauts 2 Beaumaris 1 2 , Dandenong Warriors Brighton 1	Boys 18 Southern P W D L F A PT Frankston Pines 12 9 1 2 48 12 28 Casey Comets 12 9 1 2 39 12 28 South Eastern Piranhas 12 8 2 2 48 17 25 Bayside Knights 12 8 2 2 52 22 25 Berwick City 12 6 1 5 31 24 19 Endeavour Utd 11 4 2 5 28 22 14 Springvale City 11 4 0 7 24 41 12 Brandon Park 12 3 1 8 24 41 10 Peninsula 12 3 0 9 34 56 9 Baxter 12 0 0 12 10 90 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 16 A P W D L F A PT Richmond 11 9 1 1 65 10 28 Richmond 2 10 8 1 1 28 10 25 South Melbourne 10 7 1 2 38 10 22 Epping City 11 4 3 4 20 22 15 Malvern City 10 3 3 4 20 18 12 Bundoora Utd 11 3 3 5 18 24 12 Preston Lions 11 3 1 7 18 28 10 FC Clifton Hill 10 3 1 6 23 46 10 Whittlesea Ranges FC 10 0 0 10 5 67 0
Boys South 15 A: Bye Peninsula , Berwick City 3 Springvale White Eagles 0 , Dandenong City 1 Dandenong Thunder 1 , Doveton 2 Keysborough 0 , South Eastern Piranhas 8 Endeavour Utd 0	Girls South East - South 15-16 B: Sandringham 1 7 Carrum Utd 0 , Hampton 0 Brighton 2 7 , Southern Stars North Caulfield , Baxter 1 Peninsula 3	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Orange (Sun): East Bentleigh 4 Aspendale 1 , North Caulfield 2 Bye , Bayside Argonauts 2 Beaumaris 1 2 , Dandenong Warriors Brighton 1	Boys 18 Southern P W D L F A PT Frankston Pines 12 9 1 2 48 12 28 Casey Comets 12 9 1 2 39 12 28 South Eastern Piranhas 12 8 2 2 48 17 25 Bayside Knights 12 8 2 2 52 22 25 Berwick City 12 6 1 5 31 24 19 Endeavour Utd 11 4 2 5 28 22 14 Springvale City 11 4 0 7 24 41 12 Brandon Park 12 3 1 8 24 41 10 Peninsula 12 3 0 9 34 56 9 Baxter 12 0 0 12 10 90 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 16 B P W D L F A PT Richmond 11 9 1 1 65 10 28 Richmond 2 10 8 1 1 28 10 25 South Melbourne 10 7 1 2 38 10 22 Epping City 11 4 3 4 20 22 15 Malvern City 10 3 3 4 20 18 12 Bundoora Utd 11 3 3 5 18 24 12 Preston Lions 11 3 1 7 18 28 10 FC Clifton Hill 10 3 1 6 23 46 10 Whittlesea Ranges FC 10 0 0 10 5 67 0
Boys South 15 B: Frankston Pines 0 Baxter 8 , Berwick City 1 Langwarrin 1 , Carrum Utd 3 Peninsula 3 Casey Comets 3 , Mornington 4 Endeavour Utd 2	Girls South East - South 15-16 C: Mornington 1 Rosebud 0 , Berwick City 1 Bayside Knights 0 , Peninsula 1 Carrum Utd 1 , Casey Panthers 2 Sandringham 1 , Langwarrin 3 Brighton 1	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Yellow (Sun): North Caulfield 2 1 North Caulfield 1 2 , Brighton 0 Hampton 2 , Bayside Knights 2 Caulfield 1 , Casey Panthers 1 Bye Glen Eira 1	Boys 18 Southern P W D L F A PT Frankston Pines 12 9 1 2 48 12 28 Casey Comets 12 9 1 2 39 12 28 South Eastern Piranhas 12 8 2 2 48 17 25 Bayside Knights 12 8 2 2 52 22 25 Berwick City 12 6 1 5 31 24 19 Endeavour Utd 11 4 2 5 28 22 14 Springvale City 11 4 0 7 24 41 12 Brandon Park 12 3 1 8 24 41 10 Peninsula 12 3 0 9 34 56 9 Baxter 12 0 0 12 10 90 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 16 B P W D L F A PT Richmond 11 9 1 1 65 10 28 Richmond 2 10 8 1 1 28 10 25 South Melbourne 10 7 1 2 38 10 22 Epping City 11 4 3 4 20 22 15 Malvern City 10 3 3 4 20 18 12 Bundoora Utd 11 3 3 5 18 24 12 Preston Lions 11 3 1 7 18 28 10 FC Clifton Hill 10 3 1 6 23 46 10 Whittlesea Ranges FC 10 0 0 10 5 67 0
Boys South 16 A: Bye Mornington , Casey Comets 1 , Hampton Park Utd 1 , Berwick City 1 Langwarrin 1 , Peninsula 3 Keysborough 0 , South Eastern Piranhas 2 White Star Dandenong 1	Girls South East - South 15-16 D: Noble Park 1 Bayside Knights 0 , Peninsula 1 Carrum Utd 4 , Mornington 7 North Caulfield 1 , Casey Panthers 2 Sandringham 1 , Langwarrin 3 Brighton 1	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sun): North Caulfield 2 1 North Caulfield 1 2 , Brighton 0 Hampton 2 , Bayside Knights 2 Caulfield 1 , Casey Panthers 1 Bye Glen Eira 1	Boys 18 Southern P W D L F A PT Frankston Pines 12 9 1 2 48 12 28 Casey Comets 12 9 1 2 39 12 28 South Eastern Piranhas 12 8 2 2 48 17 25 Bayside Knights 12 8 2 2 52 22 25 Berwick City 12 6 1 5 31 24 19 Endeavour Utd 11 4 2 5 28 22 14 Springvale City 11 4 0 7 24 41 12 Brandon Park 12 3 1 8 24 41 10 Peninsula 12 3 0 9 34 56 9 Baxter 12 0 0 12 10 90 0	Boys Central - P W D L F A PT	North 16 B P W D L F A PT Richmond 11 9 1 1 65 10 28 Richmond 2 10 8 1 1 28 10 25 South Melbourne 10 7 1 2 38 10 22 Epping City 11 4 3 4 20 22 15 Malvern City 10 3 3 4 20 18 12 Bundoora Utd 11 3 3 5 18 24 12 Preston Lions 11 3 1 7 18 28 10 FC Clifton Hill 10 3 1 6 23 46 10 Whittlesea Ranges FC 10 0 0 10 5 67 0
Boys South 16 B: Bye Mornington , Casey Comets 1 , Hampton Park Utd 1 , Berwick City 1 Langwarrin 1 , Peninsula 3 Keysborough 0 , South Eastern Piranhas 2 White Star Dandenong 1	Girls South East - South 16 C: Sandringham 1 7 Carrum Utd 0 , Hampton 0 Brighton 2 7 , Southern Stars North Caulfield , Baxter 1 Peninsula 3	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Purple (Sun): North Caulfield 2 1 North Caulfield 1 2 , Brighton 0 Hampton 2 , Bayside Knights 2 Caulfield 1 , Casey Panthers 1 Bye Glen Eira 1	Boys 18 Southern P W D L F A PT Frankston Pines 12 9 1 2 48 12 28 Casey Comets 12 9 1 2 39 12 28 South Eastern Piranhas 12 8 2 2 48 17 25 Bayside Knights 12 8 2 2 52 22 25 Berwick City 12 6 1 5 31 24 19 Endeavour Utd 11 4 2 5 28 22 14 Springvale City 11 4 0 7 24 41 12 Brandon Park 12 3 1 8 24 41 10 Peninsula 12 3		

Croydon City Arrows	12 1 1 10 4 42 4	Altona City	11 7 0 4 33 21 21	North East-Central SSF Boys	11 Kang Blue (Sat)	Yarra Jets	11 5 0 6 26 30 15	South SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos Lime (Sun)
Glen Waverley	12 0 1 11 5 43 1	Keilor Park	11 5 3 3 20 21 18	P W D L F A PT	10 9 1 0 40 6 28	Watsonia Heights	10 5 0 5 20 27 15	P W D L F A PT	Berwick City
Girls Central - North	East - East 15-16 A	Cairnlea	12 5 1 6 29 41 16	Essendon Royals	11 3 2 6 33 50 11	Banyule City	10 1 1 8 5 33 4	12 10 1 1 67 27 31	Casey Comets
Boroondara Eagles	P W D L F A PT	Brimbank City	11 3 1 7 10 45 10	Whittlesea Utd	10 8 2 0 29 3 26	Whittlesea Ranges FC	10 1 0 9 8 45 3	12 9 1 2 47 28 28	Hampton Park Utd
Croydon City Arrows	12 11 1 0 69 11 34	FC Bulleen Lions 1	11 1 1 9 4 61 4	Riversdale	10 7 0 3 21 18 21	Bundoora Utd 2	10 0 1 9 6 46 1	11 9 0 2 52 28 27	South Springvale
Ashburton	10 7 1 2 24 7 22	FC Bulleen Lions 2	10 6 0 4 28 12 18	Elwood City	11 6 0 5 30 25 18	South East SSF Boys	11 Joeys Blue (Sat)	12 7 1 4 46 32 22	Mornington
FC Bulleen Lions	12 5 4 3 30 12 19	Richmond 2	11 3 2 6 15 12 11	Boroondara Eagles	11 3 2 1 6 9 33 7	P W D L F A PT	12 9 2 1 46 12 29	11 6 0 5 41 30 18	Berwick City
Knox City	12 6 0 6 18 17 18	Ashburton	11 2 0 9 11 43 6	South Melbourne	11 9 1 1 44 23 28	Beaumaris 1	12 8 1 2 39 23 25	12 9 1 1 52 28 27	Casey Comets
Whitehorse Utd	11 5 1 5 23 22 16	Bye	10 0 0 0 0 0 0	Melbourne Athletic JFC	11 6 2 3 38 26 20	Hampton 1	12 5 3 4 30 21 18	12 5 3 4 40 33 31	Hampton Park Utd
Doncaster Rovers	12 3 1 8 24 41 10	Doncaster Rovers	10 0 0 10 8 39 0	Yarraville Glory	11 6 1 4 37 16 19	Bayside Argonauts	11 6 0 5 26 23 18	12 2 1 4 27 21 18	South Springvale
Kensington JGSC	11 2 2 7 18 40 8	Alphington	12 10 1 1 50 18 31	Port Melbourne	12 5 3 4 37 28 18	Brighton 3	12 5 3 4 26 23 18	12 5 3 4 44 33 32	Endeavour Utd
Moorebank	10 2 1 7 9 25 7	South Melbourne	11 6 0 5 34 31 18	Melbourne Lions	12 5 1 6 40 38 16	Brighton 2	12 5 1 6 25 33 16	12 2 1 1 9 11 36	Keysborough
Sherbrooke Rangers	12 0 2 10 7 69 2	Central SSF Boys	11 Joeys (Sun)	FC Clifton Hill	12 5 1 6 24 39 16	Glen Eira	11 4 3 4 15 21 15	12 0 0 12 3 60 0	Langwarrin
Girls Central - North	East - East 15-16 B	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	Malvern City	10 3 1 6 26 39 10	Dandenong Warriors	11 4 2 5 25 26 14	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	South SSF Boys
Box Hill Inter	11 10 0 1 63 6 30	FC Buleen Lions 1	11 5 2 4 22 18 17	Whitehorse Utd	11 7 3 1 33 16 24	East Bentleigh	12 3 3 6 33 35 12	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Kangaroos/Joeys (Sun)
South Melbourne	12 8 1 3 52 14 25	FC Buleen Lions 2	10 4 1 5 28 28 13	Riversdale	10 4 1 5 28 28 13	Sandringham City	12 4 0 8 23 33 12	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Berwick City 1
Alphington	12 8 1 3 26 12 25	Richmond 1	11 3 0 8 15 36 9	Ashburton	10 1 0 9 9 38 3	Beaumaris 2	12 3 3 6 21 39 12	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Casey Comets
Boroondara Eagles 2	12 6 2 4 30 21 20	Richmond 2	10 0 0 10 6 39 0	South Yarra	12 0 0 12 4 63 0	Brighton 1	11 3 1 7 17 37 10	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Doveton
Boroondara Eagles 1	12 6 0 6 35 26 18	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	Port Melbourne	12 5 3 4 37 28 18	South East SSF Boys	11 Joeys Green (Sat)	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Peninsula
Ashburton	12 3 0 9 16 53 9	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	Melbourne Lions	11 6 0 5 34 31 18	P W D L F A PT	12 5 5 0 0 25 5 15	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Mornington 1
Oakleigh Cannons	12 2 1 9 7 33 7	FC Clifton Hill	10 8 0 2 37 12 24	FC Clifton Hill	11 10 0 2 37 13 21	Glen Eira 3	5 4 0 1 17 8 12	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Berwick City
Nunawading City FC	11 1 1 9 7 77 1	South Melbourne 1	11 8 1 2 33 19 25	Port Melbourne	11 7 0 4 37 12 30	Glen Eira 1	4 2 2 0 18 6 8	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Casey Comets
Girls Central - North	East - East 15-16 C	FC Demons	10 8 0 2 47 23 24	Malvern City	11 3 0 8 19 42 9	Beaumaris 2	4 2 2 0 13 7 8	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Doveton
Glen Waverley	11 8 1 2 26 7 25	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Brighton 1	4 2 1 1 17 13 7	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Sandringham City 2
Waverley Victory	12 8 0 4 37 23 24	South Yarra	9 1 0 8 12 42 3	South Yarra	9 1 0 8 12 42 3	Brighton 3	5 2 0 3 11 19 6	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	East Bentleigh
Oakleigh Cannons	11 6 1 4 18 15 19	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	Port Melbourne	11 7 0 4 37 12 30	Oakleigh Cannons	11 5 2 4 26 14 17	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Sandringham City 1
Watsonia Heights	11 5 3 3 33 21 18	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	Melbourne Lions	11 6 1 5 36 33 19	Ashburton 2	12 4 3 5 29 25 15	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Beaumaris 1
Brandon Park	12 6 0 6 33 26 18	FC Buleen Lions 1	11 3 0 8 19 42 9	FC Demons	10 2 1 7 12 30 7	Ringwood City	12 3 1 8 24 44 10	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Brighton 2
FC Bulleen Lions	11 4 1 6 18 16 13	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Yarra Jets	11 2 0 9 13 45 6	Ashburton 1	12 1 1 10 16 50 4	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Sandringham City 1
Greenvale Utd	11 3 2 6 14 28 11	Central SSF Boys	11 Joeys (Sat)	Box Hill Inter	12 1 0 11 8 55 3	Box Hill Inter	12 1 0 11 8 55 3	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	James Cook FC
DOC Utd	11 1 0 10 16 59 3	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	South Melbourne 2	11 8 1 2 33 19 25	North East-East SSF Girls	11 Pink (Sun)	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	West SSF Boys
Girls Central - North	East - East 15-16 D	FC Clifton Hill	10 8 0 2 37 12 24	FC Clifton Hill	10 8 0 2 37 13 21	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Kangaroos
Glen Waverley	11 9 0 1 26 7 27	South Melbourne 1	11 10 0 1 46 7 30	Port Melbourne	11 7 0 4 37 12 30	Glen Eira 3	5 4 0 1 17 8 12	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Joeys
Waverley Victory	12 8 0 4 37 23 24	FC Demons	10 2 1 7 12 30 7	Malvern City	11 3 0 8 19 42 9	Glen Eira 1	4 2 2 0 18 6 8	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Green (Sun)
Oakleigh Cannons	11 6 1 4 18 15 19	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Beaumaris 2	4 2 2 0 13 7 8	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Berwick City 1
Watsonia Heights	11 5 3 3 33 21 18	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	South Yarra	9 1 0 8 12 42 3	Brighton 1	4 2 1 1 17 13 7	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Casey Comets
Brandon Park	12 6 0 6 33 26 18	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	Port Melbourne	11 7 0 4 37 12 30	Brighton 3	5 2 0 3 11 19 6	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Doveton
FC Buleen Lions	11 4 1 6 18 16 13	FC Buleen Lions 1	11 3 0 8 19 42 9	Malvern City	11 9 1 1 37 12 28	Oakleigh Cannons	11 4 2 5 25 26 14	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Sandringham City 2
Greenvale Utd	11 3 2 6 14 28 11	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Ashburton 2	12 3 1 2 7 11 25 9	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	East Bentleigh
DOC Utd	11 1 0 10 16 59 3	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	South Yarra	9 1 0 8 12 42 3	South Melbourne	11 5 1 3 21 39 16	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Sandringham City 1
Girls Central - North	East - East 15-16 E	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	Port Melbourne	11 7 0 4 37 12 30	Beaumaris 2	4 2 2 0 13 7 8	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	James Cook FC
Glen Waverley	11 9 0 1 26 7 27	FC Demons	10 2 1 7 12 30 7	Malvern City	11 9 1 1 37 12 28	Brighton 1	4 2 1 1 17 13 7	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	West SSF Boys
Waverley Victory	12 8 0 4 37 23 24	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Brighton 3	5 2 0 3 11 19 6	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Kangaroos
Oakleigh Cannons	11 6 1 4 18 15 19	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	South Yarra	9 1 0 8 12 42 3	Oakleigh Cannons	11 5 2 4 26 14 17	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Joeys
Watsonia Heights	11 5 3 3 33 21 18	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	Port Melbourne	11 7 0 4 37 12 30	Ashburton 2	12 4 3 5 29 25 15	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Green (Sun)
Brandon Park	12 6 0 6 33 26 18	FC Buleen Lions 1	11 3 0 8 19 42 9	Malvern City	11 9 1 1 37 12 28	South Melbourne	11 5 1 3 21 39 16	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Berwick City
FC Buleen Lions	11 4 1 6 18 16 13	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Beaumaris 2	4 2 2 0 13 7 8	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Casey Comets
Greenvale Utd	11 3 2 6 14 28 11	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	South Yarra	9 1 0 8 12 42 3	Brighton 1	4 2 1 1 17 13 7	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Doveton
DOC Utd	11 1 0 10 16 59 3	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	Port Melbourne	11 7 0 4 37 12 30	Brighton 3	5 2 0 3 11 19 6	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Sandringham City 2
Girls Central - North	East - East 15-16 F	FC Buleen Lions 1	11 3 0 8 19 42 9	Malvern City	11 9 1 1 37 12 28	Oakleigh Cannons	11 4 2 5 25 26 14	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	East Bentleigh
Glen Waverley	11 9 0 1 26 7 27	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Yarra Jets	11 1 2 8 9 40 5	Ashburton 2	12 3 1 2 7 11 25 9	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	Sandringham City 1
Waverley Victory	12 8 0 4 37 23 24	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	South Yarra	9 1 0 8 12 42 3	South Melbourne	11 5 1 3 21 39 16	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	James Cook FC
Oakleigh Cannons	11 6 1 4 18 15 19	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	Port Melbourne	11 7 0 4 37 12 30	Beaumaris 2	4 2 2 0 13 7 8	12 0 0 12 6 51 0	West SSF Boys
Watsonia Heights	11 5 3 3 33 21 18	FC Buleen Lions 1	11 3 0 8 19 42 9	Malvern City	11 9 1 1 37 12 28	Brighton 1	4 2 1 1		

Lionesses pounce for victory

By Emma Fields

After Round 13 of the Victorian Women's Premier League, the finals' participants look all but decided, as the top four have pulled away from the rest of the competition.

Box Hill Inter continues to lead the ladder, with Heidelberg, Sandringham and Ashburton close behind. At the other end of the ladder, Preston boosted its chances of avoiding relegation with a valuable victory.

Box Hill Inter maintained its position at the top of the ladder with a comprehensive 6-1 victory over struggling Altona City at Wembley Park on Friday night. Two Louisa Bisby goals in the first half gave the home side a comfortable lead going into the break, but Altona pulled a goal back shortly after the interval through Alexandra Miller which lifted the visitors' spirits. However, Inter was able to snuff out any hopes Altona had of a revival, scoring a further four unanswered goals in the last half hour of the match. Natalie Exxon scored twice, with Georgia Koutrouvelis and Deanna Niceski also on target. The win, Inter's eighth of the season, propels it to 27 points, three ahead of its nearest challenger. While it may not have expected to get anything out of this game, the severity of the loss was particularly bad news for Altona, as it drops to the foot of the ladder on goal difference. With the relegation battle looking likely to go down to the wire, goal difference may well play a significant role in determining who stays in the WPL.

Preston Lions recorded its second win of the season and lifted itself off the bottom of the ladder with a victory over South Melbourne at BT Connor Reserve on Friday. The result ended South's unbeaten streak, which stretched back to the beginning of June. The match was tightly fought encounter, with Preston defending in numbers and South unable to find a breakthrough. Goalless at half time, the match was marginally more open in the second half, and Preston found the net fifteen minutes from time through Melissa Rodriguez. Both of Preston's victories have come against South, and this one could prove vital as it puts Preston level on points with Altona and ahead on goal difference. For South, the defeat ends its slim hopes of making the finals, and keeps it in the relegation battle, as it is only three points ahead of Preston and Altona.

Distance proved no challenge for Ashburton, as it defeated Bendigo Vipers 3-1 at Vibert Reserve in Shepparton. Two first half goals set up the win for Ashburton, and the visiting



South Melbourne keeper Sarah McKeon comes off her line to stop Preston's Jacinta Mazza. Natalie Brajanovski follows up. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

side maintained its two goal advantage to the ends, with both teams scoring once after the interval. Sarah Lovett, Ellvana Curo and Sarah Walsh all scored for Ashburton, with Catherine Wylie-O'Brien on target for the home side. The win was Ashburton's second in succession, but it drops to fourth on the ladder with 21 points. Bendigo remains sixth on the ladder, and it is not yet out of the woods in terms of relegation, given it is only four points ahead of the bottom side.

With Sandringham and Casey Comets occupying fourth and fifth positions on the ladder respectively at the beginning of the round, their clash at Comets Stadium was an opportunity for Casey to close the gap and mount a challenge to snare a position in the finals. Instead, Sandringham highlighted the gulf between the top four and the rest of the competition this year, with a comprehensive 5-0 victory over its hosts. The visiting side established a two goal lead before the interval, and added an additional three unanswered goals in the second half. Emma Runnalls scored twice, with Stephanie Catley, Sienna Fogarty and Alice Maxwell also finding the net. The victory lifts Sandringham to third on the ladder, one point behind Heidelberg, while Casey remains fifth, with a six point gap between it and fourth-placed Ashburton.



Genia Avram (South Melbourne) is about to get her kick despite pressure from Kirstie Shearing (Preston).

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Round 14 begins on Saturday at Epsom Huntly Reserve, as Heidelberg United returns to action when it travels to take on Bendigo Vipers. South Melbourne and Casey Comets meet at McIvor Reserve on Sunday, and both teams will be keen to bounce back after suffering disappointing losses in Round 13. Also on Sun-

day, Ashburton hosts Preston Lions at Ashburton Park. The match of the round takes place at Kingston Heath on Monday night, with top side Box Hill taking on third-placed Sandringham. Both sides were free-scoring in their Round 13 victories, but whether they can repeat that against stronger opposition remains to be seen. Altona

WPL RESULTS

Box Hill Inter 6

(G Koutrouvelis D Niceski L Bisby 2 N Exon 2)

Altona City 1 (A Miller)

Preston Lions 1

(MB Rodriguez Lorenzo)

South Melbourne Womens 0

Bendigo Vipers 1

(CS Wylie-O'Brien)

Ashburton 3

(S Lovett E Curo S Walsh)

Casey Comets 0

Sandringham 5

(S Catley S Fogarty A Maxwell E Runnalls 2),

Reserves: Box Hill Inter 4 Altona City 0, Preston Lions 0 South Melbourne 2, BASL 1 Ashburton 6, Casey Comets 0 Sandringham 0

WPL NEXT ROUND

Bendigo Vipers v Heidelberg Utd
Epsom Huntly Recreational Park
Sat 24 Jul KO 3:00PM

South Melbourne v Casey Comets
McIvor Reserve
Sun 25 Jul KO 1:00PM

Ashburton v Preston Lions
Ashburton Park
Sun 25 Jul KO 3:00PM

Sandringham v Box Hill Inter
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Mon 26 Jul KO 8:30PM

Bye v Altona City

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill Inter	12	8	3	1	35	10	27
Heidelberg Utd	11	8	0	3	28	14	24
Sandringham	12	7	2	3	24	13	23
Ashburton	11	7	0	4	31	19	21
Casey Comets	11	5	0	6	19	22	15
Bendigo Vipers	12	3	3	6	13	22	12
South Melbourne	12	3	2	7	13	21	11
Preston Lions	11	2	2	7	10	29	8
Altona City	12	2	2	8	8	31	8

WPL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashburton	11	8	2	1	37	9	26
Sandringham	12	6	4	2	21	14	22
South Melbourne	12	6	3	3	22	12	21
Box Hill Inter	12	6	2	4	28	14	20
Casey Comets	11	6	2	3	21	9	20
Heidelberg Utd	11	5	4	2	21	11	19
BASL	12	3	1	8	12	41	10
Altona City	12	1	2	9	12	31	5
Preston Lions	11	0	2	9	5	38	2

For more WPL news visit
Emma Field's blog <http://fromthebackline.blogspot.com>

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Round of upsets greets SL1

By Aritro Abedin

Round 14 of State League Division 1 action saw the two biggest upsets of the season being registered with Clifton Hill thumping Langwarrin 4-0, while Springvale White Eagles, by far the outstanding team in this division, somehow lost 2-1 to a Preston outfit that had only previously managed 2 points for the season. Meanwhile the young Bulleen Lions outfit took advantage of other results to fire back into second place.

Bulleen stabilized their slightly faltering season with an impressive 2-0 away win over North Geelong that sent them back into second place. The Lions came out full of fire and deployed a relentless pressing game, making life difficult for the Warriors and stifling their ability to build from the back. They got their reward when 17 year old Daniel Peluso latched onto an Anthony Magnacca through ball to slot home his first goal in Lions colours in just the fourth game of his career.

The ever-consistent Michael Santaro then doubled the scoreline in the 60th minute with a delightful lob over the goal-keeper to put the points beyond the Warriors reach. Bulleen assistant Nick Crivelli was full of praise for a Bulleen side that remains by some margin the youngest in the league. ‘It was a good team effort, I thought some of the young boys came of age. Most of the teams have gained three to five players, but if anything we’ve lost about six players this season. But we’re pursuing a youth policy at this club and we’ll continue to do that.’ However, now that they find themselves in second place with eight games left to play this season, Crivelli knows that his charges need to approach the final two months with an all-or-nothing mentality if they want to secure promotion. ‘There’s 8 games left, and anyone can be there. From now on we’ve got to make sure there’s no shagging, no flogging, no nightclubbing, eating the right things, training hard and really give this our best shot so we can play in the VPL next year.’

Pascoe Vale made up for last week’s disastrous capitulation against Western Suburbs with a comfortable 2-1 win over promotion chasing Fawkner Blues. George Kakaletsis’ side kept possession for the bulk of the first half and they were rewarded in the 42nd minute when a throw in was flicked on into the path of Bale Micovski who then dipped in a stunning volley from outside the box to give his side the advantage. The visitors then doubled their lead in the 85th minute when Marco Tolli left a pair of defenders in his wake with a jinking run before finishing neatly with his left foot. Fawkner were allowed an injury time consolation when Mifit Bojku capitalized on a sleeping Pascoe Vale defence to pull one back for the home side, but the match was to end as a welcome return to winning ways for George Kakaletsis’ men. ‘We went there and played some good football. I was a bit concerned after last week when we went two nil up and then conceded three but we responded well. We were solid at the back and a lot more sure of ourselves.’ Kakaletsis’ side is without doubt one of the most talented attacking outfits in this division, frequently producing football of the sort of fluency that one rarely sees at this level. However, consistent lapses in defence have robbed them of what may well have been a place in the promotion zone this season. ‘It’s just been individual errors, and they’ve happened a few too many times this season, probably more than in any other season I’ve ever been involved in. But as they say, you need good luck to go with the bad luck, and you need a good run with injuries to win a championship, and we probably haven’t had the luck go our way this season.’

It was a scrappy and largely forgettable contest at Ralph Reserve which saw Western Suburbs and St.Alban’s t fight out a 1-1 draw, with the weather and the boggy pitch preventing the match from ever rising above the most pedestrian level. Western Suburbs pressed home the advantage early with Joshua Kamasz scoring from a fourth minute corner. The talented Saints outfit gradually got back into the swing of the game,



Bale Micovski (Pascoe Vale) gets shirty with Nemanja Govedarica (Fawkner). PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Orhan Kara (Fawkner) jumps to deny Bale Micovski possession. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

and nearly found an equalizer with a second half penalty. However, the spot-kick sailed wide and the home side looked as if they’d managed to hang on for three valuable points until an 87th minute St.Albans corner resulted in the equalizer that the Saints had been threatening to score for the entire half.

Suburbs coach Lorenz Kindtner thought the scoreline was a fair reflection of the match. ‘We played three up front for this one to try and put a bit of pressure on them, and it worked- we had chances early and scored within four minutes. But they eventually got back into the game and controlled the midfield and got one back in the end. To be honest, it was a fair result, I have no complaints.’ Western Suburbs were flying high at the top of the league only two months ago but injuries and the sale of gun young marksman Nick Scerri have conspired together to bring about a dip in form that has seen them slip to fifth place. Kindtner hinted that failing to secure promotion may not necessarily be regarded as a disaster this season. ‘Nick being gone has hurt us, definitely. But to be



Uskek scores for the St Albans Saints. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

honest, we’re just happy staying in this division. It’s very difficult to send a team out in the VPL when you think of how much it costs with player wages, and whatever else. Especially when you’re a club that only has two or three hundred people watching every week.’

In other results, Alex Kiratzoglou’s Clifton Hill side pulled off a stunning 4-0 vic-

tory against Langwarrin in a huge upset at Kevin Bartlett Reserve.

However, the biggest upset of the round, and in fact this entire season, occurred at BT Connor Reserve where lowly Preston pulled off a miraculous 2-1 victory over the table-topping Springvale White Eagles. Whittlesea and Malvern City also fought out a 0-0 draw at Epping Soccer Stadium.

SL1 RESULTS

North Geelong Warriors 0
FC Bulleen Lions 2
(M Santaro D Peluso)

Fawkner Blues 1 (M Bojku)
Pascoe Vale 2
(M Tolli B Micovski)

FC Clifton Hill 4
(A Kiratzoglou J Theofilopoulos T Papoutsis N Davey)
Langwarrin 0

Whittlesea Zebras 0
Malvern City 0

Preston Lions 2
(R Najdovski AJ Branov)
Springvale White Eagles 1
(G Mrdic)

Western Suburbs 1
(J Kamasz)
St Albans Saints 1

Under 21s:
North Geelong Warriors 2
FC Bulleen Lions 4, Fawkner Blues 0 Pascoe Vale 1, FC Clifton Hill 1 Langwarrin 2, Western Suburbs 0 St Albans Saints 1, Whittlesea Zebras 2 Malvern City 0, Preston Lions 3 Springvale White Eagles 3

SL1 NEXT ROUND

Round 15
Langwarrin v Whittlesea Zebras
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 24 Jul KO 3:00PM

Pascoe Vale v FC Clifton Hill
Hosken Reserve
Sat 24 Jul KO 3:00PM

Malvern City v North Geelong Warriors
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Sat 24 Jul KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v Fawkner Blues
Churchill Reserve
Sun 25 Jul KO 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v Preston Lions
Veneto Social Club
Mon 26 Jul KO 8:30PM

Springvale WE v Western Suburbs
White Eagles Stadium
Mon 26 Jul KO 8:30PM

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springvale White Eagles	14	10	2	2	31	15	32
FC Bulleen Lions	14	7	4	3	26	11	25
Fawkner Blues	14	7	4	3	23	15	25
Langwarrin	14	7	2	5	26	27	23
Western Suburbs	14	5	6	3	24	17	21
Pascoe Vale	14	6	3	5	21	19	21
Whittlesea Zebras	14	6	3	5	19	19	21
North Geelong Warriors	14	5	4	5	19	16	20
St Albans Saints	14	4	8	2	28	22	17
FC Clifton Hill	14	3	1	10	19	27	10
Malvern City	14	3	1	10	9	35	10
Preston Lions	14	1	2	11	10	36	5

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bulleen Lions	14	10	2	2	31	14	32
North Geelong Warriors	14	9	3	2	31	13	30
Langwarrin	14	9	2	3	28	16	29
Pascoe Vale	14	8	0	6	33	22	24
Whittlesea Zebras	13	6	4	3	23	16	22
Springvale White Eagles	14	6	3	5	25	23	21
Western Suburbs	12	6	1	5	22	22	19
St Albans Saints	14	6	1	7	22	16	16
Preston Lions	14	3	3	8	26	32	12
FC Clifton Hill	13	2	4	7	14	30	10
Malvern City	14	2	3	9	18	36	9
Fawkner Blues	14	1	2	11	6	30	5

RESULTS & LADDERS

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 14

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

All matches to be played on Saturday 24th July
with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State NW 2

Whittlesea Ranges v Sydenham Park

Epping Soccer Stadium Fri 23 Jul KO 8:30PM

Altona City v Geelong Rangers

HCM Reserve

Ballarat Red Devils v Altona East Phoenix

Trekardo Park

Brunswick City v Port Melbourne

Dunstan Reserve

Werribee City v Banyule City

Gavin Park Reserve

Williamstown v Moreland City

JT Gray Reserve

State SE 2

Frankston Pines v Morwell Pegasus

Monetary Reserve

Berwick City v Eastern Lions

Jack Thomas Reserve

Dandenong City v Southern Stars

Frank Holahan Soccer Reserve

Heatherton Utd v Casey Comets

Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre

Knox City v Diamond Valley Utd

Egan Lee Reserve

Southern Suburbs v Doncaster Rovers

Keeley Park

State NW 3

Geelong v Westgate

Stead Park Reserve, Corio Fri 23 Jul KO 8:30PM

Keilor Park v Lalor

Keilor Park Reserve

La Trobe University v Cairnlea

Latreo Uni Lower Playing Field

Maribyrnong Greens v Essendon Utd

Skinner Reserve

Melb University Rangers SC v Hume Utd

Princes Park (Parkville)

Yarraville Glory v Sunbury Utd

McIvor Reserve

State SE 3

Croydon City Arrows v Waverley Wanderers

Dorset Recreational Reserve Fri 23 Jul KO 8:30PM

Nunawading City FC v Brandon Park

Mahoneys Road Reserve

South Springvale v Kingston City

Warner Reserve

Mornington v Peninsula Strikers

Dallas Brooks Park

Springvale City v Noble Park Utd

Ross Reserve

Fitzroy City v North Caulfield

Fairfield Park Sun 25 Jul KO 3:00PM

South Springvale v Kingston City

Warner Reserve

Mornington v Peninsula Strikers

Dallas Brooks Park

Springvale City v Noble Park Utd

Ross Reserve

Fitzroy City v North Caulfield

Fairfield Park Sun 25 Jul KO 3:00PM

Provi NW 1

Melbourne City v Corio

Edwards Reserve

North Sunshine Eagles v Laverton Park SC

Larissa Reserve

Northern Falcons v Avondale Heights

Hayes Park

South Yarra v North City Lions

Fawkner Park (North Pavilion)

Westgate v FC Strathmore

McKechnie Reserve

Whittlesea Utd v Elwood City

Thomas Street Recreational Reserve

Provi SE 1

Warragul Utd v Sandringham City

Baxter Park (Warragul)

Beaumaris v Mooroolbark

Beaumaris Reserve

Boroondara Eagles v Old Melburnians

Macleay Park

Monash University v Dandenong Sparrows

Monash University Sports Oval

Monbulk v Old Camberwell Grammar

Monbulk Recreational Reserve

Old Scotch v Doveton

H.A. Smith Reserve

Provi NW 2

Bell Park v Epping City

Bell Park Sports Club

Collingwood City v Plenty Valley Lions

Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Lalor Utd v Melbourne Tornado

HR Uren Reserve

Moreland Utd v West Preston

Moomba Park Reserve

Surf Coast v Hoppers Crossing

Quay Reserve

Melton v Western Eagles

MacPhersons Park Sat 24 Jul KO 7:00PM

Provi SE 2

Skye Utd v Lyndale Utd

Skye Recreational Reserve

Endeavour Utd v Riversdale

Reema Reserve

Whitehorse Utd v Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC

Terrara Park

Old Carey v Ashburton

Carey Sports Complex

Old Brighton Grammarians v Caulfield Cobras

Dendy Park

Bayside Argonauts v Berwick Kings

Shipston Reserve

Provi NW 3

Mill Park v Watsonia Heights

Findon Reserve

Youth Utd v Meadow Park Eagles

Seth Raistrick Reserve

Brunswick Zebras v Northern Roosters

Summer Park

Bundoora Utd v Brimbank Stallions

Hillsview Recreational Reserve

Keilor Wolves v Balmoral

Green Gully Reserve

Upfield v Darebin Utd

Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 3

Essendon Royals v East Bentleigh

Ormond Park

Noble Park v Glen Waverley FC

Norman Luth Reserve

Old Trinity Grammarians v Eltham Redbacks

Trinity Sports Ground

Rowville Eagles v Manningham Park

Ridge Reserve

Seaford Utd v Keysborough

North Seaford Reserve

White Star Dandenong v Brighton

Greaves Reserve

RESULTS & LADDERS

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 14

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Port Melbourne 2 (F Rosman R O'Hare) Ballarat Red Devils 0, Altona East Phoenix 1 (N Papadopoulos) Altona City 2 (J Little J Hart), Banyule City 1 (D Oosterloo) Williamstown 1 (A Dimitrijevic), Geelong Rangers 0 Werribee City 3 (Bubulji J Dimitrijević), Moreland City 1 (O Simsek) Whittlesea Ranges 1 (D Pistinini), Sydenham Park 1 (M Tsiorlas)

Port Melbourne 2 Ballarat Red Devils 1, Altona East Phoenix 2 Altona City 3, Banyule City 1 Williamstown 2, Geelong Rangers 2 Werribee City 2, Moreland City 3 Whittlesea Ranges 2, Sydenham Park 1 Brunswick City 3

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
14	10	3	1	26	6	33
14	7	6	1	28	15	27
14	7	3	4	20	14	24
14	7	3	4	22	17	24
14	6	4	4	14	12	22
14	5	5	4	20	14	20
14	5	4	5	22	22	19
14	5	2	7	20	27	17
14	3	6	3	16	18	15
14	4	2	8	18	19	14
14	2	2	10	7	32	8
14	1	4	9	6	23	7

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
14	11	2	1	39	15	35
14	9	3	2	24	13	30
14	8	5	1	24	15	29
12	9	1	2	27	19	28
13	8	1	4	31	22	25
13	6	3	4	25	19	21
13	6	3	4	25	19	21
13	5	4	3	26	25	24
13	4	6	1	31	22	19
13	4	6	1	31	22	19
13	3	7	3	21	22	17
13	2	6	2	16	20	19
13	2	6	2	16	20	19
13	1	7	2	16	20	19
13	1	7	2	16	20	19
13	1	7	2	16	20	19
13						



V-LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

Round 12

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Flying Fitzroy keeps its noses in front

Pascoe Vale 6 vs. 3 Albert Park

The champions opened the card against always resilient Albert Park. Both sides looked to close 9 point gaps, Pascoe Vale 9 points from the top and Albert Park 9 points from safety. Both sides started tentatively as they fought early kickoff slumber.

Pascoe Vale looked out of sorts, recent signing Andre Caro the shining light scoring a vital hat-trick in the 6-3 win. PVFC Front man Haider Noor arrived late to a feisty reception. Albert Park were missing manager Zoran Matic and were in disarray prior to kick off but it didn't effect a solid on court performance, Brendan Chen was good in goals and was complimented by good performances by Papagerogiu, Filipovic and Dragic. Debutants Stefan Litanakis & Iman Arjomand both scored on debut but it wasn't enough to secure any points from this game.

Mickleham 8 vs 2 Brimbank

Mickleham have taken time to gel and adapt to the fast and furious pace of V-League Futsal but they got it together as they dismantled Brimbank in the second game of the evening. Brimbank looked pedestrian without talisman Mazursky and did nothing to challenge 8th placed Mickleham.

The yellow and black (MFC) played without a substitute with regulars Apostolakis, Nguyen and outdoor stars Filipovic, Marusic & Colosimo. They shared the goals amongst themselves in the 8-2 rout.

Brimbank will need some fresh recruits if they are to have any chance of survival. Mickleham are aiming to survive relegation playoffs and come back a much stronger side in the off-season.

Fitzroy 7 vs 6 FC Prahran

The prime time clash of the night, table toppers Fitzroy vs giant killers Prahran. Fitzroy started their amazing season 11 weeks ago against the Prahran boys in a shock 3-2 win. Prahran were clearly out for revenge and set their stall early grabbing a 2-0 lead.

Fitzroy left Klonis far too exposed on several encounters in this end to end affair. Alex Huseini sparked Fitzroy into life but they still went into half time 3-2 down. Mogoai was ever-present for Prahran clearing three shots off the line!

Shakhanov was exuberant in goal saving a tirade of shots from Minopo-

los. Joao Da Silva made an impressive debut for Fitzroy scoring a vital double including the 7-6 match winner as Fitzroy came back from 5-2 down to seal a memorable victory.

North Melb 4 vs 3 Ashburton

Futsal Juggernauts North Melbourne took on Ashburton in an important clash for both sides. North had last week's saviour Rashidi back in the side alongside stars Cooper & Barrientos.

North also had Fitzroy superstar Brenno Polatti & ex-Fitzroy players Mus Elor & Spiro Kargas on the bench. This explosive game was an end to end spectacle with North playing sumptuous Futsal but unable to beat a determined Plethakos in the Ashburton goal. James Mercurial Blackburn scored two cracking free kicks to keep Ashburton in the contest; the game was locked at 2-2 at half time and 3-3 with minutes to go. Dimitri Vithoulkas received his marching orders for a crude tackle on Barrientos prior to Pollatti scoring what seemed to be the winner.

With 8 seconds to go Ashburton were awarded a free kick, Blackburn stepped up to take quickly but was blocked by an entourage of North Melbourne pitch invaders that will surely face consequences in the aftermath of what was an amazing match. It was handbags at 10 paces after the game with Luciano Bessa also seeing red for stomping.

Metropolitan 13 vs 6 FC Carlton

Metropolitan boosted the goal difference in this convincing master class that saw them toy with a youthful Carlton. Carlton was a revamped side looking to improve on the dreadful first 11 rounds of the campaign. Metro raced to a 4-0 lead with intelligent & classy play by Zilic & Redzepovic.

Metro are a goal scoring machine but they are also susceptible to switching off and conceding as Carlton made their way back into the game going into the break 4-3 down. Metropolitan were too strong in the end, Alja finishing with 3 goals, Zilic with 4 goals, and solitary goals to Castro, Jeles, Ljuka, Avdic and Dino. Carlton can take several positives from the game including goal keeper Cem Bicer's fine efforts and the impressive debut of Evandro Da Silva a former NSW institute of sport phenomene. Carlton



James Danos FCC Manager has 10 premiership games left to lift FC Carlton (away strip orange) off the bottom of the premiership ladder.



The Mercurial One James Blackburn's hat trick (Ashburton) wasn't enough to get the points against old rivals North Melbourne

manager James Danos has his work cut out for him.

FC Essendon 5 vs 7 Hume

A contender for match of the round saw the 2009 V-League Champions (EFC) vs the 09/10 State League Champions (HFC). For Essendon it was a case of been there done that, as the young & exuberant Hume played high up the park for long spells.

They created multiple 2 v 1 opportunities but lacked goal scoring fire power required to play in the top flight..

FC Essendon sat back and hit on the counter with Stevanovic deadly as

ever getting forward when possible. Alexander stole the show as he did in the first match of the season rallying his troops with nobody on the bench to call on.

Hume hit the post, and underside of the cross bar and upright before the final whistle. But unlike the first round of the season they found the drive, firepower and artisan like skill to break down Essendon who had led for long spells of the game.

Amin Kedad rallied his troops superbly well as they marched on towards a vital 3 points and move up the V-League ladder equal on points with 2010 champions Pascoe Vale.

V-League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Fitzroy FC	12	10	1	1	74	50	24	31
2 Metropolitan FC	12	8	2	2	107	74	33	26
3 Nth Melbourne FC	12	8	1	3	62	45	17	25
4 Pascoe Vale FC	12	7	1	4	72	57	15	22
5 Hume FC	12	7	1	4	62	51	11	22
6 Ashburton FC	12	6	0	6	67	69	-2	18
7 FC Prahran	12	5	2	5	58	58	0	17
8 Mickleham FC	12	5	1	6	65	62	3	16
9 FC Essendon	12	3	3	6	65	64	1	12
10 Brimbank FC	12	2	3	7	59	64	-5	9
11 Albert Park FC	12	2	1	9	51	71	-20	7
12 FC Carlton	12	1	0	11	42	119	-77	3

Round 12 Results

July 14

- 6:30 Pascoe Vale FC v Albert Park FC 6 - 3
- 7:15 Mickleham FC v Brimbank FC 8 - 2
- 8:00 Fitzroy FC v FC Prahran 7 - 6
- 8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v Ashburton FC 4 - 4
- 9:30 Metropolitan FC v FC Carlton 13 - 6
- 10:15 FC Essendon v Hume FC 5 - 7

Round 13 Clashes

July 21

- 6:30 FC Essendon v Mickleham FC
- 7:15 Albert Park FC v Brimbank FC
- 8:00 Ashburton FC v Pascoe Vale FC
- 8:45 Metropolitan FC v FC Prahran
- 9:30 Hume FC v Fitzroy FC
- 10:15 Nth Melbourne FC v FC Carlton

Top Scorers

- 1.Alexander Stevanovic FCE 34 goals
- 2.Leigh Minopoulos FCC 27 goals
- 3.Vadim Mazurskiy BFC 25 goals
- 4.Alja Redzepovic MFC 25 goals
- 5.Ryan Filipovic MKFC 25 goals

SouvlakiHut State League Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Collingwood	8	6	0	2	58	29	29	18
2 Melbourne Uni FC	9	6	0	3	51	25	26	18
3 FC Melbourne	10	6	0	4	48	36	12	18
4 Doncaster FC	9	5	0	4	44	34	10	15
5 CF Brunswick	9	5	0	4	46	51	-5	15
6 Elsternwick FC	9	5	0	4	41	46	-5	15
7 FC Maribyrnong	9	4	0	5	34	51	-17	12
8 FC Geelong	10	3	0	7	43	38	5	9
9 FC Balwyn	9	1	0	8	30	85	-55	3

Round 11 Results

July 11

- 7:40 FC Balwyn v FC Geelong 3 - 2
- 8:20 CF Brunswick v Doncaster FC 8 - 5
- 9:00 FC Melbourne v FC Maribyrnong 7 - 2
- TBA Melbourne Uni FC v Elsternwick FC re-scheduled
- Bye FC Collingwood v Bye

Round 12 Clashes

July 18

- 7:40 Elsternwick FC v FC Collingwood
- 8:20 Melb Uni FC v FC Maribyrnong
- 9:00 CF Brunswick v FC Geelong
- 9:40 FC Balwyn v FC Melbourne
- Bye Doncaster FC v Bye

PHOTOS BY
Franco Lucchetti, Nick Chippas

The Futbol Town Show



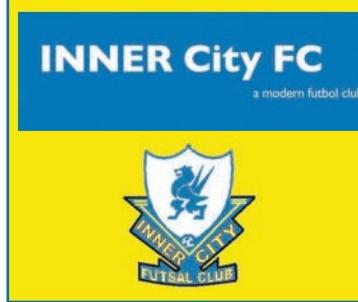
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33

BENTLEIGH GREENS



0

DANDENONG THUNDER



2

Match Details:**Lineups:****Bentleigh Greens:**

Salcin, D., Stavridis, G., Shwal, N., Smart, C., De Vito, S. (Saparovski, J. 27'), Anthopoulos, C., Iokcancic, D. (Scott, B. 74'), Rojas, A., Fadljevic, A., Webster, J., Piemonte, D. (Natsioulas 55')

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, S., Starosa, B. Osman, Wilford, A., Bright, J., Bulloch, S. (Avdulai, A. 82'), Davidson, R., Rexhepi, S., Ibraimi, I (Bahnsen, N. 63') Reed, J. (Korcari, V. 53')

Scorers: Reed 5', 17'

Reed Double sinks Greens

By George Stogiannou

A Jamie Reed double in the opening 20 minutes secured Dandenong Thunder's sixth win in a row against a struggling Bentleigh Greens on Friday night at Kingston Heath.

The Welsh sharpshooter reacted quickest to a parried Scott Bulloch shot to tap past Greens keeper Damir Salcin in the 5th minute, then followed up with a close range header from a Ben Starosa corner in the 17th minute, for his sixth goal in five matches.

Both sides started the game in 4-5-1 formation, but the second goal prompted new Greens coach Andy O'Dell to withdraw defender Sam DeVito and introduce veteran striker Johnny Saparovski to play in a more attacking 3-5-2 formation.

The extra striker almost made an immediate impact forcing a one on one save from Thunder keeper Sturt Webster and then striking the rebound onto the near post. It was the closest however that the Greens would come to scoring all match as they struggled to penetrate a well organised Thunder defence.

Thunder looked less threatening in attack after Reed came off with muscle tightness early in the second half, and although the home team tried to push forward, there was little from either side in the second half that threatened to change the course of the match.

Bentleigh Greens coach Andy O'Dell commented after the match, "Really disappointed today. The boys are very disappointed as well

because in the second half we put a lot of work in. First 20 minutes we weren't switched on and we got punished. All credit to Dandenong. They're well organised...I've got to get that winning feeling back into Bentleigh. I've got good players. I've got a hell of a lot of work to do. Five games to go. Hopefully we can turn it around, because the club deserves to stay in the Premier League."

Dandenong Thunder coach Stuart Munro commented after the game, "They've probably been a little bit down in confidence recently Bentleigh, so we were trying to take advantage of that by starting well. Make sure we put pressure on them, early and you get rewarded for it. It was a good solid three points without being brilliant. We've got some very tough games to come. If we can keep everybody available and fit I think we'll do well. But there's going to come a time when one or two of the English lads are going to have to go back at some point, but hopefully we'll have them till the end of the season. So as long as we've got players available, I think we'll do well. If we start to lose players then we'll have to fight a little bit harder. At least we'll be doing that with confidence which we didn't have at the beginning of the year."

Dandenong Thunder will act as sparring partner on Tuesday evening for Melbourne Victory in a practise match at Olympic Park. Kick-off is at 7.30 pm.



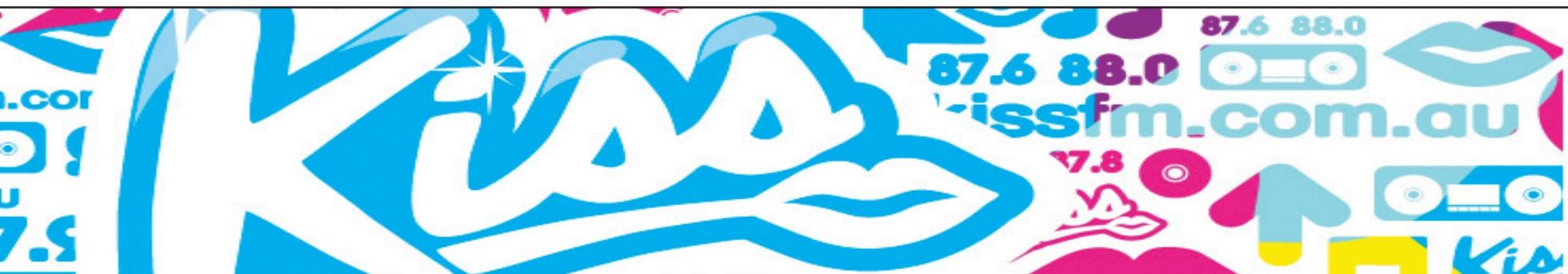
Thunder goalie Stuart Webster punches the ball away from Johnny Saparovski PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Alex Rojas, backed up by Adam Fadljevic, goes after the ball as Jamie Reed goes down
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Bentleigh's George Stavridis (Bentleigh) tackles Jamie Reed.
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



OAKLEIGH CANNONS



1

HUME CITY



3

Match Details:

Cannons:

A.Cagalj, J.Cumming,
J.Fitzgerald, S.Drakos,
L.Patnic (B.Oloradovic
46'), S.Webster, A.Drakos
(B.Damianos 40'), C.Watson,
M.Curcija (B.Gasparinatos
72'), R.Diaco, J.Karpeh.
Goals: S.Drakos 90+1

Yellow cards: None
Red cards: None

Hume:

M.Roza, S.Pir, I.Erdogan,
S.Pace (F.Delutzia
34'), T.Baser, D.Delic,
P.Riccobene, R.Cardozo,
M.Bosevski, A.Vlahos
(A.Opazo 37'), Z.Petrevski
(T.Sumbul 83').

Goals: Riccobene 23', Car-
dozo 30', Delic 43'.

Yellow cards: None
Red cards: None

Venue: Jack Edwards Re-
serve

Crowd: 350

Hume top at Cannons expense

By Gordon Bennett

Hume City has taken the ascendancy in the race for the Alanic VPL Minor premiership when it convincingly defeated Oakleigh Cannons 3-1 at Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday night.

The result enabled Hume City to leapfrogged Oakleigh Cannons at the top of the standings from third place; a position it can hold at least until tonight when Richmond Eagles play Sunshine George Cross.

Hume City wasted no time in wresting the leadership from the Cannons when it fired three unanswered goals in quick succession in a dazzling 15 minute spell that had the home side reeling and left looking for some answers.

Philip Riccobene opened the scoring after twenty minutes when he side volleyed into the net after a cross from the right from Micheal Bosevski found him lingering at the back post.

The second goal followed eight short minutes later when Tansel Baser played Andy Vlahos through on goal and the Hume City player-coach cut back the ball nicely for Richie Cardozo, who exquisitely slotted the ball home and doubled the lead for the visitors.

The game was effectively over when Dusko Delic danced his way through a collection of bodies on the edge of the eighteen yard box before unleashing a shrike that signalled a new leader was now in our midst.

It could actually have been more if it weren't for the post keeping another Cardozo effort at bay in the second half.

The only dampener for Hume on the night was that Vlahos and Steven Pace had to come off just before half time with a slight hamstring and quad strain.

In the second half it appeared as though Hume was happy to contain the Cannons, until the scoreboard was blemished with just about the last kick of the match.

An innocuous free-kick from out wide caused a goalmouth scramble whereby Jerry Karpeh managed to poke a consolation goal home for the Cannons.

Within seconds of the restart the referee blew his whistle for full time and with that the top of the ladder now had a different shape than 90 minutes earlier.

After the match Cannons coach John Anastasiadis was understandably upset by his team's surrendering of top spot, "It was a very disappointing result, and a very disappointing performance. Overall we're bit shattered by it and we need to find some answers pretty quick. A lot of questions need to be asked because I don't know why our recent performances have lacked consistency. We've got to try and get at least seven points from the remaining games to be in contention for the finals because there's obviously a number of teams behind us now that are really close to us".

He went on to add, "All credit to Hume, they totally outplayed us and pressured us completely. We really didn't know how to respond to it properly."

In contrast Hume coach Andy Vlahos was hugely satisfied with the result and its impact with finals football around the corner, "It was a pretty good first half performance and I'm very happy with the win. We were very solid throughout the team and it puts us in a good position for the run in. If we win two out of the four games left it should hopefully secure us a double chance in the finals. Anything above that is a bonus, but I think the double chance is the key."

Next week Hume tackles South Melbourne, whilst Oakleigh faces Richmond.



Hume's Phillip Riccobene celebrates with Dusko Delic

Photo: PETER KAKALIAS



Hume's Richard Cardozo scores and teammate Phillip Riccobene jumps over the top. PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS



Hume's Zoran Petrevski manages to get his head to the ball first. PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS

Half-Time Heroes

NORTHCOTE CITY



1

GREEN GULLY



1

Match Details:

Northcote City :
 C.Petropoulos, A.Jankovski,
 N.Curtis, M.McGough, T.Rixon,
 H.Kinigopoulos, H.D'Agostino,
 E.Soares, J.Kalifatidis,
 J.Vougaris

Green Gully :
 N.Roganovic, D.Jones,
 S.Burton, T.Gould, G.Hockless,
 N.Robinson, M.Sanders(G.
 Wales), R.Ollerton,
 M.Medjedovic, A.Vargas,
 B.Fisher(M.Anderson)

Northcote City : 1
Goalscorer : J.Vougaris '90
Yellow Cards : A.Jankovski,
J.Vougaris

Green Gully : 1
Goalscorer : A.Vargas '60
Yellow Cards : D.Jones,
S.Burton, T.Gould, M.Anderson

**Match of the Match : Andy
 Vargas**

Stalemate at John Cain

By Markian Jaworsky

Despite a last minute Northcote equaliser, the Green Gully Cavaliers have much to be proud of by taking a point from John Cain Memorial Reserve.

Green Gully were already facing an uphill battle prior to kick-off with no less than 4 players out of the starting lineup for various reasons explained in an interview with Gully fullback Stevie Burton.

Up front Kiwi striker Brent Fisher replaced Joshua Groenewald, Tim Gould was again filling in for Jeffrey Fleming, Matthew Sanders in for Jason Hayne and Nicholas Robinson in Johnathon Munoz.

In the first half, whilst the visitors did enjoy a fair share of possession it was Northcote who were the team looking most likely to score. In fact star VPL striker Trent Rixon did everything but score.

His shot which deflected off the Gully post midway through the first half had everyone's hearts in their mouths as the ball seemed to stay suspended in the air for an eternity.

It was indeed a match of much to play for and it showed, with no less than 6 yellow cards awarded during the 90 minutes of play.

It was a much more determined

Gully outfit that took the field in the second half, Gully had held possession and attacked like Spanish World Cup Champions. With Andy Vargas leading by example it was a spirited second half performance. Vargas opened the scoring on the hour, finishing off a move assisted by the strength of forward Brent Fisher, and with 20 minutes to play the pair nearly conspired again to double Gully's lead with a carbon copy play.

However, it was not to be for the Cavaliers. With just a minute of normal play remaining one last speculative long ball for Northcote eventually undid the Cavaliers, and the chip from Northcote's Jonathan Vougaris had to be perfect, and it was.

Speaking after the match, in an interview to be aired on the Green Gully Soccer Show, Saturday July 24, Channel 31 (Channel 44 on digital), Gully fullback Stevie Burton explained that Joshua Groenewald was away trialling with the Gold Coast A-League Team, Jason Hayne was still in New Zealand for family matters, Jonathan Munoz was out injured and Jeffrey Fleming serving the second week of his 3-week suspension.



Andy Vargas is mobbed by Gully team mates PHOTO: PETER PSARROS



Northcote City players are ecstatic after a Jonathan Vougaris chip late in the game secured a share of the spoils against an in-form Gully.

Iset: Gully's Dean Fak and Jeff Fleming look on from the stands. PHOTOS: PETER PSARROS

ALTONA MAGIC



2

HEIDELBERG UNITED



1

Squad Lists:

Altona Magic: Tomislav Tomich; Doug Mladenovic, Dejan Radojicic, Koce Delev, Pece Siveski, Mathew Theodore, Pece Cergovski (Sime Kovacevic 84'), James Ducevski (Aleksander Koltovski 72'), John Thornley, Slava Bozinovski, Goran Talevski (George Papadopoulos 90+3')

Substitutes not used: Andrew Sfetopoulos, Justin Nikolovski

Yellow Cards: Mathew Theodore 57', Pece Cergovski 68'; James Ducevski 72'; Dejan Radojicic 88'; Koce Delev 89'

Goals: John Thornley 38', 70'

Heidelberg United: Steve Tilovski; Paul Miller, Yanni Galanos, George Slefendorfas, Nicholas Marinos, Antonio La Verde, Luke Byles (Les Doumbalis 18'), Craig Elvin, Steve Martin, Saso Alexovski, Denis Alilovic Steve Tilovski

Substitutes not used: Christian Morales, Laurence Gugorossi, Matt Zancevski, Nicholas Agyiokolikis

Yellow Cards: Paul Miller 27'; George Slefendorfas 65'; Craig Elvin 87'

Red Card: Nicholas Marinos 89'

Goal: Saso Alexovski 58'

Player of the Match: John Thornley (Altona Magic)

Crowd: approx 400

Venue: Broadmeadows Valley Park
Crowd: 500

Thornley Gives Magic a Lifeline

By John Fotinos

Altona Magic has kept its VPL survival hopes alive in 2010 with a 2-1 victory over Heidelberg United at Paisley Park on Saturday night.

The hero for Magic was John Thornley, who scored a goal in each half to give his side the valuable three points after three successive losses, and more importantly give it a realistic chance of avoiding the drop. The result also ended Heidelberg United's nine game unbeaten streak & with a growing injury & suspended player list, Heidelberg will need to regroup immediately to keep its finals hopes alive. Heidelberg United began intent on stamping its authority early in the piece, with a stinging shot by Galanos flying just over the bar in the first minute of play. Over the course of the first twenty minutes of play, the visitors missed a number of scoring opportunities with Slefendorfas spurning a one on one on Tomich, then Aleksovski hitting the bar with a late dipping shot & again minutes later just missing with a well struck free kick, and a LaVerde strike narrowly missing with the keeper well beaten. Having survived the initial Heidelberg United barrage, Altona began to attempt to gain some sort of foothold in the match.

As so often happens in football, Altona Magic, the team on the back foot for most of the game thus far, struck first in the 38th minute against the run of play. John Thornley picked up a loose ball just forward of centre, and made a powerful run towards the penalty box & finished wonderfully on the left foot past an advancing Tilovski to send the home support into raptures. With an unlikely 1-0 lead, Altona went into the main break looking to maintain its advantage.

The second half began much the same as the first, with Heidelberg United twice denied an equaliser, first through a Craig Elvin header which was cleared off the line

& then minutes later when Marinos' deft chip past Tomich was scrambled off the goal line by Altona's Ducevski. Heidelberg United did grab an equaliser in the 58th minute, when Alilovic found Aleksovski just outside the box with a lateral pass, which Aleksovski stuck home powerfully past Tomich, who could do little to stop the shot.

With Heidelberg now sensing a chance to grab all three points, it was Altona, however, that grabbed the winner on 70 minutes, following a woeful clearance by Heidelberg 'keeper Tilovski. His scuffed attempt fell invitingly to Thornley just 20 metres out, allowing the Altona striker the relatively easy task of slotting the ball past Tilovski and again, somewhat against the run of play, restore the lead to a jubilant Magic outfit. To their credit, Heidelberg United continued to press forward for the remainder of the game, with an Alilovic free kick dipping just over the bar in the dying moments of the match. As has been the case with recent matches between the two sides, there was late drama when Heidelberg's Marinos was shown a red card following a clash with Altona's Cergovski after Heidelberg had been awarded a free kick. There was to be no more goals as an elated home outfit celebrated its win and elevation off the bottom of the table with gusto post-match, leaving the visitors to rue missed opportunities in a match which they dominated for large parts.

Altona Magic take on Melbourne Knights at Knights Stadium next Sunday in a match which could well play a big part in which of the two survive relegation. Heidelberg United will look to bounce back against a struggling Bentleigh Greens outfit next Sunday night at the Olympic Village. The U/21's match finished in a 0-0 draw between the Altona Magic & Heidelberg United sides.



Altona's Pece Cergovski tries to escape the attention of Heidelberg's George Slefendorfas.

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Altona Magic's Pece Cergovski in the thick of the action once again, this time clearing the danger with a header at Paisley Park on Saturday night. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

SOUTH MELBOURNE



3

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



0

Match Details:

South Melbourne:
 Peter Zois, James Stefanou, Steven O'Dor, Eddie Cetkin, Rama Tavascioglu, Gianni De Nittis, Daniel Vasilevski (Sebastian Petrovic 81'), Joseph Youssef, Joe Keenan, Marinos Gasparis (Marcus Schroen 90'), Hamid Basma (Jason Ricciuti 74')
 (Scorers: Gianni De Nittis 40', 74', Marinos Gasparis 87')

Melbourne Knights:
 Sebastian Mattei, Ryan Filipovic, Ben Surey, Liam Cannell (Anthony Colosimo 63'), Josip Magdic (Tomislav Ples 81'), Ivica Praiz (Jacob Colosimo 75'), Kevin Townson, Adrian Zahra, Thomas Skara, Jean Dubois, Danny Tiatto

Man of the Match: Peter Zois
(South Melbourne)
Venue: John Cain Memorial Park
Date: Sunday 18 July 2010
Crowd: 600

Unlucky Knights slip again

By John Kyrou

South Melbourne FC has moved to within five points of the top five and sent the Melbourne Knights into the relegation zone following its 3-0 victory at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon. A double from Gianni De Nittis, a tap-in from Marinos Gasparis and superb goalkeeping from Peter Zois led to the victory.

Despite the 3-0 scoreline, the Knights were very competitive in a match that could have been very different had it not been for Zois' heroics. However it was the home side that opened the scoring five minutes before the break thanks to a wonderfully crafted goal. An excellent long ball from Daniel Vasilevski was controlled well by Gasparis, who then laid the ball off for Gianni De Nittis. The forward hit a stinging shot from outside the area that was too hot for Knights keeper Sebastian Mattei to control, with the ball flying off his hand and into the back of the net.

The second half was similar, with Zois outstanding in goal and with his teammates scoring at the

other end. The three points were confirmed in the 74th minute when De Nittis flicked Vasilevski's near post corner past a stranded Mattei. Three minutes from time South had their third when substitute Sebastian Petrovic's long ball was collected by Joe Keenan, who crossed the ball to the waiting Gasparis to tap home. Zois summed up the Knights' miserable day when he parried a shot onto the post with the ball falling perfectly back for him to collect.

South has a difficult match next week when the side entertains League leaders Hume City at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday 25 July at 3pm. At the same time the Melbourne Knights host Altona Magic at Knights Stadium in a game that could very well decide who gets relegated in 2010.

The multi-skilled Liam Cannell controls the ball as he hurdles the fallen James Stefanou. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



South Melbourne's Eddie Cetkin comes down on top of Kevin Townson PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

SUNSHINE GEORGIES



RICHMOND EAGLES

Squad Lists:

Sunshine George Cross

1	Martin JOHN
2	David STRANIERO
6	Shaun ROMEIN
7	Matthew CINI
8	Fidell RICHARDS
10	Leo SHIN
15	Andrew NABBOUT
17	Craig SWEENEY
19	Dion PORTELLI
21	Christos KONSTAS
22	Andrew BOURAKIS
23	Daniel SWEENEY
24	Douglas CAMERON
27	Ben COGGER
29	Taxiarhis APOSTOLIKAS
32	Barry DEVLIN
33	Luke GROUNDS
35	Tyronne DEMETRIOU
36	James BLACKBURN
37	David CALLEJA
49	Cameron SALIK
	Evan CHRISTODOULOU

Richmond

1	Stjepan GAL
2	Andrew VIOLA
3	Erhan KARAHAN
5	Stefan PIORKOWSKI
6	Dimitri TSIARAS
8	Alexander TABOR
9	Milos LUJIC
10	Daniel VISEVIC
11	Michael FERRANTE
12	Peter SAWAN
13	Antun KOVACIC
14	Michael CATALANO
15	Mitch BISSINGER
16	Tomislav MILARDOVIC
17	Jesse KRNCVIC
18	Steven TOPALOVIC
19	Davey VAN 'T SCHIP
22	Robert SIMEONI
23	Conor REDDAN
	Evan BATIS

Precious points at stake

By Mark Boric

Round Eighteen of the Alanic Victorian Premier League concludes with a Monday night clash between Sunshine George Cross and Richmond at Knights Stadium.

With Altona Magic defeating Heidelberg United on Saturday night, Sunshine have now fallen to the bottom of the table. They urgently need to arrest a run of seven straight defeats if they are to keep their hopes of staying in the top flight alive. The Eagles, having lost top spot on the table after some indifferent recent form, will know anything less than a win will raise serious questions about their finals aspirations.

When the last met in Round 7 it was a 2-0 win for Richmond at Kevin Bartlett Reserve, with goals from Antun Kovacic and Jesse Krnceanic bering about a regulation victory after the Georgies had striker Stuart Nicholson sent-off after eight minutes. The clubs resumed their rivalry in 2004 in State League Division One, with George Cross having been State League (now VPL) mainstays during Richmond's cameo appearances in 1961 and 1963. In VPL clashes since 2006, Richmond have had the better of the Georgies, posting five wins to one with two draws. The

goal difference of sixteen to five was blown out by an 8-0 win to Richmond on the final day of the 2007 season which condemned Sunshine to relegation.

There are no former Georgies in the current Richmond squad, with three former Eagles currently turning out for Sunshine. Captain Fidell Richards and defenders Chris Konstas and Luke Grounds all having spells at Kevin Bartlett Reserve.

Sunshine coach Theo Constantinou's task hasn't been helped by the departures of the likes of Nicholson and Kyle Joryeff, who still remain the teams leading scorers this term with three and four goals respectively. The goals have dried up recently for Richmond, but Kovacic, Krnceanic, Daniel Visevic, Milos Lujic and Dimitri Tsiaseras all have scored against George Cross in the past.

Richmond coach Michael Chatzirifonos will not have Erhan Karahan at his disposal, the left back breaking down late on in his comeback game from a hamstring injury in the loss to Hume City last Sunday, though competition for places remains high in a squad looking to establish its finals credentials.

The under 21's game will kick-off at 6.15 p.m. with the senior game following at 8.15 p.m.



Last time these two teams met it was Round 7 and Richmond came up trumps 2-0 thanks to goals from Jesse Krnceanic and Antun Kovacic.

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Book Your Tickets for Derby Day

Sunshine George Cross is holding a Pre-Match Luncheon at 12.30 p.m. prior to the Sunshine George Cross Vs Green Gully derby game at the Knights Stadium this Saturday. A catered dinner, as well as a complimentary glass of wine will be served. Bookings can be made by contacting Vic Brincat on 0447 549 771, by Thursday the latest. No tickets will be sold at the door.

A number of former George Cross players will be guests at this function.



VPL Standings Round 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume City	18	10	4	4	32	24	31
Oakleigh Cannons	18	9	3	6	27	23	30
Richmond	17	9	2	6	24	21	29
Green Gully Cavaliers	18	8	3	7	27	19	27
Dandenong Thunder	18	9	3	6	21	22	27
Northcote City	17	7	3	7	32	24	24
Heidelberg Utd	18	7	6	5	29	27	24
South Melbourne	18	8	4	6	32	24	22
Bentleigh Greens	17	5	3	9	17	31	18
Altona Magic	18	4	4	10	31	35	16
Melbourne Knights	18	5	4	9	22	28	16
Sunshine George Cross	17	4	3	10	16	32	15

Hume City v N.T.C

Olympic Village

Wed 21 Jul KO 8:30PM

Richmond v Oakleigh Cannons

Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Fri 23 Jul KO 8:30PM

VPL Round 19

Melbourne Knights v Altona Magic

Knights Stadium

Sun 25 Jul KO 3:00PM

Sunshine George Cross v Green Gully

Knights Stadium

Sat 24 Jul KO 4:00PM

South Melbourne v Hume City

John Cain Memorial Park

Sun 25 Jul KO 3:00PM

Dandenong Thunder v Northcote City

George Andrews Reserve

Sat 24 Jul KO 7:00PM

Heidelberg Utd v Bentleigh Greens

Olympic Village

Sun 25 Jul KO 3:00PM

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
South Melbourne	19	16	2	1	58	25	50	
N.T.C	20	9	7	4	56	36	34	
Richmond	17	10	2	5	36	24	32	
Oakleigh Cannons	18	7	7	4	39	31	28	
Heidelberg Utd	19	9	2	8	31	29	26	
Green Gully Cavaliers	20	7	5	8	33	48	26	
Hume City	18	8	4	6	46	31	25	
Northcote City	19	6	6	7	46	43	24	
Bentleigh Greens	19	7	2	10	29	36	23	
Altona Magic	19	5	4	10	23	38	19	
Melbourne Knights	19	6	2	11	30	39	17	
Sunshine George Cross	18	5	1	12	27	54	16	
Dandenong Thunder	17	2	4	11	21	41	10	

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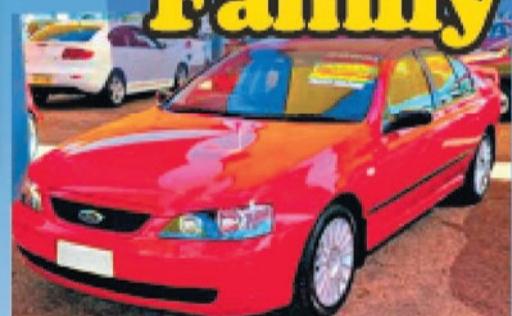
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